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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1857.

REVIEWS.

The Kingdom and People of Siam; with a Narrative of the Mission to that Country in 1855. By Sir John Bowring, F.R.S., Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China. 2 vols. John W. Parker & Son.

LITTLE is known of Siam. A region with a population of five or six millions, lying within easy sail of Singapore, receiving constant accessions from China, and having intercourse on its borders with other races, is yet so secluded in itself, that the only information travellers have been able to collect concerning it is fragmentary and inaccurate. We hear of dense forests in which the wanderer loses himself as in a maze, of tropical heats and destructive inundations, of superstitions, slavishness and venality; but with the exception of a few scattered notices in books rarely seen by what are called general readers, the character of the people, their modes and customs, their laws, literature, and language, and the physical resources of the country, have been so imperfectly treated, that the publication of a work with such pretensions as that now before us, combining the results of historical research and personal observation, possesses something of the interest of a new discovery. Few persons are so well qualified for the undertaking as Sir John Bowring; he is an excellent linguist, is well acquainted with the peculiarities of the neighbouring Chinese, occupies a post in Her Majesty's service, which throws open to him the most favourable opportunities of procuring authentic information, and was recently charged with a mission to the Court of Siam, which brought him into direct intercourse with the sovereign and the principal people of the country. The work is diligently executed; the author has collected his geographical and historical particulars from the best available sources, and his narrative of adventures contains many curious pictures of manners and ceremonies. Yet it is surprising, notwithstanding these advantages, how slender a contribution it offers towards a history of Siam. Regarded as a book of travels, or residence, with a substratum of information under the principal heads of inquiry, such as geography, religion, laws, &c., these volumes may rank in point of permanent interest and popular attraction with any volumes of their language. But much more must be gathered before a complete work, satisfying all points of inquiry, can be compiled. In the meanwhile, there can be no hesitation in saying that Sir John Bowring has here presented us with the fullest account of Siam and its people that has up to this time been given to the public.

Not the least valuable, although not the most entertaining part of the work, is that in which Sir John Bowring enters into a review of the diplomatic and commercial relations which, previously to his own visit in 1855, were maintained, or attempted to be maintained, with the Siamese. The main object of all these relations was the establishment of trade and the exchange of amicable pledges. Some of the missions undertaken with that object failed, others had only indifferent success, and upon the whole it may be inferred, from the results, that it is rather a difficult matter to negotiate with the court of Siam, or to cultivate, even under treaties, a very close alliance with the people. Sir John Bowring succeeded in forming a treaty of commerce

and friendship, which secures all reasonable protection to English enterprise; but we confess we are more interested in the journal he kept of his journey to the capital, and his reception there, than in the doubtful issues of the mercantile arrangement.

The journal opens somewhat abruptly in the Bay of Siam, where we find the plenipotentiary on board his vessel, "beckoning" the master of a Siamese fishing-boat to come near. The picture of the boat and its crew makes a capital commencement of the panorama unfolded as the journal advances:—

"There were four men on board, naked, except a rag of blue calico around the loins. The sails of the boat, of coarse cotton, full of holes. A stick, acting like a screw, rolled up the sail. The boat seemed to have only a few mats—no ornaments. Some green vegetables were on the deck. It was covered in like a Chinese sampan, but incomparably less comfortable, and had a look of discomfort and savagery, not calculated to produce a favourable first impression."

Having advanced a little farther on their voyage, they were boarded by custom-house officers in silk trousers and scarves; and two or three days after came a letter from the King, in an ornamented vase of gold, with a present of fruit and sweetmeats in richly-ornamented silver salvers. Of the persons who brought these things, and other officials who came from the Second King, the principal characteristic seems to have been intense curiosity, a quality which does not abate as we get nearer to majesty itself. Arrived in the river, and approaching Bangkok, the capital, considerable time is consumed, as usual, in adjusting the ceremonials of the presentation; and although the Siamese did not present any obstacles similar to those which interrupted the progress of Sir John Malcolm in Persia, it is evident that they had a strong conviction of the necessity of standing on their dignity. Curiously enough, a private interview, to take place in the evening, was arranged as a preliminary to the public reception. The whole of this scene is very striking:—

"The King's boat arrived at a quarter before eight P.M. to convey me to the palace; and on landing at the wooden pier on the other side of the river, I was conveyed by eight bearers in an ornamented chair to the first station. It was a semi-official reception. The troops were drawn out in several parts of the palace. We were escorted by hundreds of torch-bearers through a considerable extent of passages and open grounds, passing through gates, at each of which was a body of guards, who 'presented arms' in European fashion. When we reached one of the outer buildings near the palace walls, a brother of the Phra Kalahom met us, and we were desired to wait the pleasure of the King. Two golden ewers containing pure water were brought in, and a note from his Majesty desiring I would leave my companions, H. S. P. and J. C. B., until they were sent for: I was to come on alone. The major-general marched before me, and told me that within the palace about a thousand persons resided, but that in the ladies' part there were no less than three thousand women."

"The abject state of every individual exceeds belief. While before the nobles, all subordinates are in a state of reverent prostration: the nobles themselves, in the presence of the sovereign, exhibit the same crawling obeisance. After waiting about a quarter of an hour, a messenger came, bearing a letter for me, and a pass, in the King's hand, allowing me to pass the guards; and I was informed that without such credentials no individual could approach. It was a beautiful moonlight, and in an open space, on a highly ornamented throne, sat his Majesty, clad in a crimson dress, and wearing a head-dress resplendent with diamonds and other precious stones, a gold girdle, and a short

dagger splendidly embossed and enriched with jewels. His reception of me was very gracious, and I sat opposite his Majesty, only a table being between us. The King said ours was an ancient friendship, and I was most welcome. His Majesty offered me cigars with his own hand, and liqueurs, tea, and sweetmeats were brought in. An amicable conversation took place, which lasted some time; after which Mr. Parkes and Mr. Bowring were sent for, and seated in chairs opposite the King."

Another interview presents the following particulars:—

"Two little children of the King were playing on a crimson and gold carpet, who screamed at my approach, and were taken away. They seemed to wear nothing except wide-brimmed hats, which covered their heads. He took me to his private apartments, ornamented with beautiful pendules and watches, statues of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, handsome barometers, thermometers, &c. He then led me through two or three small chambers, where were fine specimens of Chinese porcelain services, and other costly decorations. Almost everything seemed English. There were many new books on the shelves. The King spoke of the history of Siam, and said it was rather obscure and fabulous, but that the more veracious portion went back about five hundred years; that the Siamese alphabet had been introduced about that time. Inscribed on the apartments to which his Majesty had conducted me, were the words 'Royal Pleasure' in English, and in Sanscrit characters with the same meaning. He asked if I should like to hear Siamese music. On my answering yes, a number of young people (I could not distinguish the boys from the girls) played some rather pretty and plaintive airs, and interlarded them with songs, which were less wild and monotonous than I should have expected. His Majesty then conducted me to the hall of audience, leading me by the hand wherever we went, amidst the prostrate nobles, crawling about, or bending their heads in the dust in his presence."

The English reader should be informed that Siam, like Brentford, rejoices in two kings, known as the First and Second King, and possessing weight and influence in relative proportions. There does not seem to be much difference, however, between them in the matter of ceremonials, as a glance at the interview with the Second King will show; but his Second Majesty has clearly the advantage of the First in general knowledge and civilization:—

"The arrangements equally gorgeous and striking, and in most respects resembling the ceremonials of yesterday; but there was a higher tone of civilization and better knowledge of European customs exhibited. We were received by an officer and some soldiers on the landing-place, where there were not only chairs (mine highly elevated), but a quantity of carriages, to convey us to the palace. We passed through a file of soldiers for a distance of more than a quarter of a mile, most of them strangely clothed, and armed with cross-bows and poisoned arrows, battle-axes, swords at the end of long staves, tridents, halberts, variously-shaped shields, and amidst the odd assemblage, at about equal distances, soldiers who had been obviously under European training. There were files of State and some war elephants, which, with their riders, were grandly caparisoned. There was a park of artillery, served by men dressed like English artillerymen, and obviously well disciplined. We saw some ponies adorned with the most costly saddles, head and breast ornaments, one of which was the pet of the King: they were well governed, and those who had the care of them appeared proud of their charge."

We are sorry to add that, notwithstanding this auspicious commencement, there is just the same crawling servility in this court as in the other. Sir John Bowring and his suite walked erect up the hall, bearing their swords, amidst a swarm of prostrate nobles.

This singular people have some excellent traits. The affection of parents for children, and deference of the young to the old, pervade all classes. Wherever the plenipotentiary went, he saw children playing on carpets or grouped round their elders. In other respects also the Siamese contrast favourably with most Oriental races:—

"According to my experience, the mendacity so characteristic of Orientals is not a national defect among the Siamese. Lying, no doubt, is often resorted to as a protection against injustice and oppression, but the chances are greatly in favour of truth when evidence is sought. My experience in China, and many other parts of the East, predisposes me to receive with doubt and distrust any statement of a native, when any the smallest interest would be possibly promoted by falsehood. Nay, I have often observed there is a fear of truth, as truth, lest its discovery should lead to consequences of which the inquirer never dreams, but which are present to the mind of the person under interrogation. Little moral disgrace attaches to insincerity and untruthfulness; their detection leads to a loss of reputation for sagacity and cunning, but goes no further. In Siam I was struck with the unusual frankness as to matters of fact."

The Siamese are, as a nation, strictly honest, murders are very rare, disputes seldom arise amongst them, and they are essentially polite in their private intercourse. A peep into their dwellings discovers to us the evidences of distinct social grades:—

"The dwellings of the Siamese represent far more than I have seen in any other part of the world the grades of their social condition. From the beautiful stone palaces of the Kings, crowded with every European comfort and luxury, and ornamented with every decoration which either the eastern or western world can supply, to the shak-ing bamboo, palm-covered hut of the peasant, whose furniture consists only of a few vessels of coarse earthenware or wicker-work, and a mat or two spread upon the floor, the difference of position upwards or downwards may be distinctly traced. Removed from the very lowest ranks, in the Siamese houses will be found carpenters' tools, a moveable oven, various cooking utensils both in copper and clay, spoons of mother-of-pearl, plates and dishes in metal and earthenware, a large porcelain jar, and another of copper for fresh water. There is also a tea-set, and all the appliances for betel-chewing and tobacco-smoking, some stock of provisions and condiments for food."

Their *cuisine* is elaborate, although their usages at table are not yet on a level with the luxury of their dishes:—

"The tables of the opulent are crowded with a succession of dishes. In our intercourse with the high authorities, it was their purpose to entertain us in European style—and wonderfully well did they succeed. On one occasion, however, I requested the Krom Hluang (King's brother) to give us a genuine Siamese repast. On arriving, we found the table spread in the accustomed and approved European-Oriental style, with an abundance of plate, glasses, wines, soups, fish, roasted and boiled meat, *hors-d'œuvre*, with a variety of pastry, jellies, &c.; but, apart, the Prince had provided what he called a Siamese dinner for one, and I imagine the succession of dishes could have been scarcely less than sixty or seventy. He said he wished to gratify my curiosity, but that courtesy required him to entertain me according to the usages of my country, and not of Siam."

"The ordinary meals of the Siamese are at 7 A.M. and 5 P.M., but the more opulent classes have a repast at midday. The guests help themselves out of a common dish with spoons or with their fingers, using or not small earthenware plates which are before them."

Prodigality is the same in all countries, and only varies its manifestations in obedience to climate and custom. Change the scene and

the machinery, and the following passage might stand for Vienna, Paris, or London:—

"A nobleman never moves about without the bearer of his areca-box—the box called a xrob. Some of these are of solid gold, ornamented with jewels, and are among the customary presents of the King to the higher nobles. When a Siamese sits down, the xrob-bearer deposits it on the ground, so near that his master can conveniently reach it. It is in constant requisition."

"On all state, ceremonial, or official occasions, a slave carries a sword (dab) upon his right shoulder, standing at a respectful distance from his master."

"The consumption of the areca and the betel nut is enormous throughout Siam. A Siamese who is tolerably well off is scarcely ever seen without the nut in his mouth; and he is invariably attended by servants who carry a supply of the material, with all the needful paraphernalia, whose costliness depends upon the opulence and rank of the possessor. Among the nobles the boxes are almost invariably of gold; and in the case of the very highest ranks, they are covered with diamonds or other precious stones, and are constantly in a state of passage from the hands of the servants to their masters, and back again when the want of the moment has been supplied. These boxes hold the fresh leaves of the betel, the areca-nut, and the pink churam, or quicklime coloured with curcuma. The nut and the lime are wrapped in betel leaves, and the whole, in the shape of a cigar, transferred to the mouth for mastication."

We could not so easily, however, find a parallel for some other customs, such as the following, interwoven with the traditions of the people:—

"There are certain imposing ceremonies, called *Tham Khuam*, which mark the principal events or eras in the life of a Siamese, such as the shaving his head-tuft, his reception as a bonze, his marriage, the advent of a new sovereign, &c. These commemorations are never neglected, and even in the case of the less privileged classes are made the subject of much display. A sort of altar is erected of planks or bamboos, having seven steps of ascent, which are carpeted with fresh banana-leaves. Each of the steps is ornamented with grotesque figures of angels and animals in clay, paper, or carved out of calabashes. Vessels of metal or porcelain are crowded with meats and fruits. On the upper stages are garlands of flowers, and leaves of tinsel, gold, and silver, in the midst of which is a fresh cocoa-nut. At the foot of the altar are nine chandeliers, whose wax candles are kindled at a signal given by three discharges of a musket. One of the candles is seized by the person in whose honour the ceremonial has been prepared, and he walks three times round the altar; when his friends approach, each seizes one of the wax-lights, which he blows out over the head of 'the ordained,' so that his smoke may envelope his forehead. Then the fresh cocoa-nut is given him that he may drink its milk, eating with it a hard egg; and a cup containing coins to the value of about four pence is presented to him. At this moment a band of instruments breaks into music, and the ceremony ends."

Of all Siamese usages, perhaps the most extraordinary is that which is connected with the incident of childbirth. Marriages amongst the Siamese are marked by much preliminary ceremony, and carried out with remarkable gaiety; but when childbirth comes, a singular distinction, often fatal in its consequences, is conferred on the unhappy lady:—

"The event has no sooner taken place, than the mother is placed near a large fire, where she remains for weeks exposed to the burning heat: death is often caused by this exposure. So universal is the usage, so strong the prejudice in its favour among high and low, that the King himself has vainly attempted to interfere; and his young and beautiful wife, though in a state of extreme peril and suffering, was subjected to this torture, and died while 'before the fire,'—a phrase employed

by the Siamese to answer the inquiry made as to the absence of the mother. A medical missionary told me he had been lately called in to prescribe for a lady who was 'before the fire'; but ere he had reached the house, the patient had died, and both body and funeral pile had been removed. There seems some mysterious idea of pacification, such as in some shape or other prevails in many parts of the world, associated with so cruel a rite."

The costume of the people is peculiar; and, like all orientals, they are passionately fond of ornaments:—

"The ordinary dress of the Siamese is a long piece of cotton printed cloth, passed round the waist between the thighs, the ends of the cloth being stuck in behind. They wear no covering over the head, or upper part of the body; and the legs and feet are quite naked. The higher classes sometimes wear sandals, and have generally a piece of white cloth hanging loosely about the shoulders, which they sometimes use to wrap round their head. Young women employ a sort of silk scarf to screen the bosom; a refinement which, after marriage, is much neglected; indeed, no sense of shame or impropriety appears to be connected with the exposure of the body above the waist. In the sun, a light hat, which looks like an inverted basket, made of palm leaves, is used by both sexes. On all ceremonial occasions, and in visits from inferiors to superiors, it is usual to wear a silk scarf round the waist. In the presence of the King, the nobles have a garment with sleeves made of *tulle*, of the most delicate texture, and richly ornamented, which they often take from their shoulders and fasten round their waist. The women who ply on the river wear rather a graceful sort of white jacket, fastened in front. In cold weather an outer garment or robe is worn, whose value depends on the rank and opulence of the wearer."

"There is a universal passion for jewellery and ornaments of the precious metals, stones, &c. It is said there is scarcely a family so poor as to be without some valuable possessions of this sort. Rings of silver and gold adorn the arms and the legs of children; rich necklaces, earrings, and belts, are sometimes seen in such profusion as quite to embarrass the wearer. Female children, up to the age of twelve or thirteen, wear a gold or silver string with a heart in the centre, performing the part often assigned to the fig leaf in exhibitions of statues. To the necks of children a tablet called a *bai soma* is generally suspended, bearing an inscription as a charm against mischief; and men have a metallic ball attached to a belt, to which they attribute the virtue of rendering them invulnerable. A necklace consisting of seven lumps of gold or silver is worn by girls as a protecting influence."

Polygamy prevails to a ludicrous extent. The late King had seven hundred wives, and it is not at all uncommon to find a nobleman with a hundred living descendants. The centre of the life of this singular race is the city of Bangkok; and we cannot convey a clearer notion of it than we find in the description of the approach by water. The city extends along the banks of the river for several miles, and as the vessel threads its way the European visitor is enchanted by the beauty of the scenery, and the delicious fragrance that fills the air:—

"The approach to Bangkok is equally novel and beautiful. The Meinam is skirted on the two sides with forest-trees, many of which are of a green so bright as to defy the powers of art to copy. Some are hung with magnificent and fragrant flowers; upon others are suspended a variety of tropical fruits. Gay birds, in multitudes, are seen on the branches in repose, or winging their active way from one place to another. The very sandbanks are full of life; and a sort of amphibious fish are fitting from the water, to be lost among the roots of the jungle-wood. On the stream all varieties of vessels are moving up and down, some charged with leaves of the atap palm, which at once adorn and

cause them to be wafted by the wind along the water. A few huts of bamboo, with thatched roofs, are seen; and in the neighbouring creeks, the small boats of the inhabitants are moored. Here and there is a floating house, with Chinese inscriptions on scarlet or other gay-coloured paper; and at greater distances from one another are temples adjacent to the river, whose priestly occupants, always clad in yellow garments, their heads shaven bare, and holding a palm-leaf fan between their faces and the sun, sit in listless and unconcerned vacancy, or affected meditation, upon the rafts or railings which skirt the shore.

"But the houses thicken as you proceed; the boats increase in number; the noise of human voices becomes louder; and one after another pyramidal temples, domes, and palaces are seen towering above the gardens and forests. Over the perpetual verdure, so emerald-bright, roofs of many-coloured adornings sparkle in the sun. Sometimes white walls are visible, through whose embrasures artillery is peeping; multitudes of junks grotesquely and gaily painted, whose gaudy flags are floating in the breezes; each junk with the two great eyes which are never wanting in the prow; ('No have eyes, how can we see?' say the Chinese;) square-rigged vessels, most of which carry the scarlet flag with the white elephant in the centre; while, on both sides of the river, a line of floating bazaars, crowded with men, women, and children, and houses built on piles along the banks, present all the objects of consumption and commerce. Meanwhile multitudes of ambulatory boats are engaged in traffic with the various groups around. If it be morning, vast numbers of priests will be seen in their skiffs on the Meinam, with their iron pot and scrip, levying their contributions of food from the well-known devotees, who never fail to provide a supply for the multitudinous mendicants (if mendicants they can be called), whose code alike prohibits them from supplicating for alms, and from returning thanks when those alms are given.

"Seldom is music wanting to add to the interest of the scene. The opulent Siamese have invariably bands of musicians in their service;—the gongs of the Chinese, the sweet pipes of the Laos, the stringed and wind instruments of the native population, seem never still."

From the extracts we have selected—restricted to the more popular parts of the work—the reader will perceive that there is much matter of interest in these volumes. They contain a great deal of useful information, independently of the sketches of the country and the people; and the information seems to be trustworthy and authentic. At a moment when Sir John Bawling's labours in his difficult functions at Hong Kong are undergoing severe criticism in political circles, the appearance of this publication is opportune as an acceptable evidence of his talents and his zeal. It shows at all events that he is a close observer of native character and customs, and that he knows how to turn his opportunities of observation to a profitable account.

The Iliads of Homer, Prince of Poets, &c.
Done according to the Greek, by George Chapman. With Introduction and Notes, by Richard Hooper, M.A. J. R. Smith.

We confess that we have all the love of a child or a barbarian for objective poetry. We do not undervalue the metaphysical and mystical school, whose poetic gaze is fixed in contemplation exclusively on the workings of their own minds, to whom external nature even seems but a part of themselves, so intimately do they absorb all existence into their own consciousness. This faculty of viewing everything in its subjective relation is an essential attribute of the true poet. It enables him to impart the glowing colours of

his fancy to objects which, to common eyes, appear sombre and dull. It is that 'heavenly alchemy' which transmutes lead into gold, and charcoal into diamond. It discloses to us, in the common relations and pleasures and employments of this work-day world, those forms of ideal beauty and grace which enable us to walk through its muddy road undefiled. It is to the poet what faith is said to be to the Christian—"the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Without it, both life and poetry grovel on the earth.

But religion may be too mystical and contemplative, and poetry may be too poetical. Both require an infusion of objective reality to prevent them from becoming sentimental and insipid. The poet may let his mind feed upon itself by self-contemplation till it grows diseased; and his poetry will then present, not a true transcript of universal humanity with which all can sympathize, but the picture of a morbid and distorted imagination, which excites nothing but contempt in the healthy and robust. It is said that what is called heresy does not so much consist in positive error, as in the undue exaggeration of some one truth to the exclusion of others which are equally important. And so, perhaps, the spasmodic and transcendental school is a poetical heresy, which errs in the undue exaggeration of the subjective principle. In this age of civilization we are disposed to exaggerate everything. Caricature has taken the place of portraiture, and shapeless dreams or vague and unreal aspirations, of the consistent and truthful creations of a chastened imagination.

Mrs. Barrett Browning says that there is no lack of subjects for an epic poem in modern society. Perhaps so, as the marble from which might be carved a Venus or a gladiator is in the quarry. But the poet to write a modern epic, and the public to feel it, are not the products of the nineteenth century. Our feelings and lives are too complicated to admit of the simple treatment essential to epic vigour. This is the age of budgets and joint-stock banks. Modern society taboos all strong convictions. We should be ashamed of those violent bursts of passion which gave rise to heroic scenes. If Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli were to call each other names, as Achilles and Agamemnon did, they would be given in charge to a policeman. It was the simple state of society, combined with the elegant pantheism of Greece, its hand-to-hand battles, its public games, its naked wrestlers, that gave birth to the Parthenon, the Venus, the Centaurs and Lapithæ, and the Dying Gladiator. And it would be as impossible for the life and mind of the nineteenth century to produce an epic poem, as it is for our religion to create a statue or a temple. Imagination and real life are with us divorced from one another. The poet of our age must therefore seek his inspiration rather from the depth of his own consciousness than from external things; and if we would have objective poetry, we must go back to simpler times, when heroic thought led to heroic action. We must admire the Iliad and the mediæval ballads as we do a statue or a cathedral; but we must not expect to see them reproduced. Our convictions and perceptions are not strong enough for that. Even to appreciate them requires the simplicity of mind and the strong belief which are found either in the very highly cultivated or in the very igno-

rant. The epic feeling lingered longest among the wild and impulsive peasantry of half-civilized countries, like Scotland, Ireland, and Spain. And only those of the highest mental culture, who are willing and able voluntarily to put off the complicated feelings of civilization, and to become in fancy barbarians or children, can thoroughly enter into the spirit of the epic.

If this be true, as we believe it is, we cannot feel any surprise that Pope could not translate Homer. If the spasmodic school of the present day err from being "too poetical," as Sir Walter Scott said of somebody, Pope erred from being too prosaic. Perpetual self-consciousness, and the desire to produce a striking effect, is the error of one; the other is content to be witty, and easy, and correct. Cowper had indeed the fire and self-forgetfulness of the epic poet; but though he was more competent to place himself on Homer's standing-point than Pope, Milton, rather than Homer, was his model. A severe measured diction is not Homeric; and Cowper's Miltonic blank verse represents the loose and flowing hexameters of the original no better than Pope's monotonous couplets.

For a truer rendering of Homer we must go further back to an age when the epic feeling was not yet extinct, and our ballads, the true popular epic, still lived in the mouths of the people. Chapman's translation answers this condition; and it is undoubtedly one of the best versions of the great epic into a modern language that ever was made. In the age of Elizabeth and James, the time was still remembered when a great warrior not only directed the movements of armies, but, like Achilles and Hector, contributed to the success of the war by their personal skill and strength. Scarcely a hundred years before he wrote, King Richard III. had fallen at Bosworth, surrounded, like Ajax, with heaps of slain. Even in his own time Essex or Raleigh would have considered themselves disgraced had they directed the fight at the distance of a mile, with a telescope and not a sword in their hands. A ransom or a splendid suit of armour was still as legitimate an object as it had been with Tydens or Ulysses. Knights of rank sometimes held an animated colloquy before they spurred their horses to the encounter, like Paris and Menelaus. All these incidents of ancient warfare conveyed, therefore, to Chapman's imagination that feeling of reality which, by some mysterious potency, communicates itself to the language even of a translation. Pope's and even Cowper's versions have the colourless tone of West's pictures; Chapman's, if it does not present the brilliant hues of the great master, at least resembles those copies which were sometimes made by distinguished pupils in the studio of the artist himself.

How it should ever have entered into the head of any one to render Homer's long and interlaced hexameters into heroic couplets or stilted blank verse is marvellous. Chapman felt that the Iliad was to the Greeks what a metrical romance or a ballad was to the modern European. He determined, therefore, to preserve the analogy, by adopting the metre in which many of the metrical romances and ballads were written, and which most nearly corresponded in length and structure with the metre of the original. The language and feelings of chivalry, which still lived in Chapman's time, closely resemble the language and feelings of the heroic age of Greece; and the result is, that his version gives a more

correct idea of Homer than any that could possibly be written at the present day. The scholar who wishes to read Homer, *quâd* Homer, will of course prefer the original. But the lover of poetry will read Chapman's version with pleasure as a great English poem of that age when our language had assumed the form in which it now exists, without having lost the strength and vigour of its earlier development; while those who are not sufficiently familiar with Greek to enjoy the original will find it by far the best substitute.

But before endeavouring to justify our opinion of the poem itself by extracts, we cannot resist the temptation of quoting, from the Epistle Dedicatory to Prince Henry, a passage which Coleridge has pronounced, with justice, as we think, to be sublime:—

"O! 'tis wondrous much,
Though nothing prized, that the right virtuous touch
Of a well written song to virtue moves;
Nor have we souls to purpose, if their loves
Of fitting objects be not so inflamed.
How much then were this kingdom's main soul maimed
To want this great inflamer of all powers
That move in human souls! All realms but yours
Are honoured with him, and hold blest that state
That have his works to read and contemplate:
In which humanity to her height is raised,
Which all the world, yet none enough, hath praised.
Seas, earth, and heaven he did in verse comprise,
Outsuing the Muses, and did equalize
Their King Apollo, being so far from cause
Of Princes' light thoughts, that their gravest laws
May find stuff to be fashioned by his lines.
Through all the pomp of kingdoms still he shines
And graeceth all his graces. Then let lie
Your lutes and viols, and more loftily
Make the heroics of your Homer sung;
To drums and trumpets set his angel's tongue,
And, with the princely sport of hawks you use,
Behold the kingly flight of his high muse,
And see how, like the Phoenix, she renews
Her age and starry feathers in your sun,
Thousands of years attending, every one
Blowing the holy fire, and throwing in
Their seasons, kingdoms, nations that have been
Subverted in them; laws, religion, all
Offered to change and greedy funeral;
Yet still your Homer, lasting, living, reigning,
And proves how firm truth builds in poets' feigning."

In the following description of the flight of Hector from Achilles we observe the vivid language of the original, and that simplicity, so essential to the true epic, which never shrinks from a familiar image for fear of lowering the dignity of the subject. The heroic spirit consists, in fact, in preserving its dignity in the midst of common things. Homer did not think it derogatory to mention that the Trojan matrons used to wash their linen at the spring from whence flowed Scamander, and Chapman is not afraid to say that the hawk "cuffs" the pigeon:—

"—— And now Achilles comes, now near
His Mars-like presence terribly came brandishing his spear,
His right arm shook it, his bright arms like day came glittering on,
Like fire-light, or the light of heaven shot from the rising sun.
This sight outwrought discourse; cold fear shook Hector
from his stand;
No more stay now, all ports were left, he fled in fear the hand
Of that Fear-Master, who, hawk-like, air's swiftest passenger,
That holds a timorous dove in chase, and with command
doth bear
His fiery onset, the dove hastes, the hawk comes whizzing on,
This way and that he turns and winds, and cuffs the pigeon,
And, till he truss it, his great spirit lays hot charge on his wing;
So urged Achilles Hector's flight, so still fear's point did sting
His troubled spirit, his knees wrought hard, along the wall
he flew,
In that fair chariot-way that runs beneath the tower of view,
And Troy's wild fig-trees, till they reach'd where those two
mothers-springs
Of deep Scamander pour'd abroad their silver murmurings.
One warm, and casts out fumes as fire, the other cold as
snow,
Or hail dissolved. And when the sun made ardent summer
glow,
There water's concrete crystal shin'd, near which were cis-
terns made
All pav'd and clear, where Trojan wives and their fair
daughters had
Laundry for their fair linen weeds, in times of cleanly peace

Before the Grecians brought their siege. These captains
noted these:
One flying, th' other in pursuit, a strong man flew before,
A stronger follow'd him by far, and close up to him bore.
Both did their best, for neither now ran for a sacrifice,
Or for the sacrificer's hide, our runners' usual prize.
These ran for tame-horse Hector's soul. And as two running
steeds
Back'd in some set race for a game that tries their swiftest
speeds
(A tripod or a woman, given for some man's funerals),
Such speed made these men, and on foot ran thrice about
the walls."

Here are many minute touches not found in the Greek, which, though somewhat quaint, add reality and picturesqueness to the description. For instance, the epithet "cleanly," applied to peace, has no counterpart in the original. Every one who has ever witnessed the swoop of a falcon must see the beauty and truth of the expression—"the hawk comes whizzing on;" and "his great spirit lays hot charge on his wing" is a truly noble phrase.

The meeting of Priam and Achilles is sufficiently pathetic in the original. No one will deny this. But we must question whether even a deeper gloom is not given to the picture in these splendid lines. Priam says:—

"—— Achilles! Fear the gods,
Pity an old man like thy sire, different in only this,
That I am wretheader, and bear that weight of miseries
That never man did, my curs'd lips enforced to kiss that hand
That slew my children." This moved tears, his father's
name did stand,
Mentioned by Priam, in much help to his compassion,
And moved Æacides so much he could not look upon
The weeping father. With his hand he gently put away
His grave face. Calm remission now did mutually display
Her power in either's heaviness. Old Priam to record
His son's death and his deathman see, his tears and bosom
poured
Before Achilles; at his feet he laid his reverend head.
Achilles' thoughts, now with his sire, now with his friend
were fed.
Betwixt both sorrow filled the tent. But now Æacides
(Satiate at all parts with the ruth of their calamities)
Start up, and up he raised the king. His milkwhite head
and beard
With pity he beheld, and said: "Poor man, thy mind is
scard
With much affliction. How durst thou thy person thus alone
Venture on his sight that hath slain so many a worthy son,
And so dear to thee? Thy old heart is made of iron. Sit,
And settle we our woes, though huge, for nothing profits it.
Cold mourning wastes but our lives' heats. The gods have
destinate
That wretched mortals must live sad; 'tis the immortal state
Of Deity that lives secure. Two tuns of gifts there lie
In Jove's gate, one of good, one ill, that our mortality
Maintain, spoil, order: when from Jove doth mix to any
man
One while he frolics, one while mourns."

How fine is the expression, "Thy mind is scared with much affliction." After this grave and natural strain, who would have the heart to turn to Pope's laboured couplets?

This noble poem has hitherto been scarcely accessible to general readers, and it was therefore with great pleasure that we saw the announcement of a new edition, edited by the Rev. Richard Hooper, for Mr. Russell Smith's 'Library of Old Authors.' It is a very handsome book, in the small quarto shape, to suit the long lines, with a facsimile of the old plate of Chapman's fine head for a title page. Prefixed to the poem is a short sketch of the translators of the Elizabethan age, with remarks from Coleridge, Hazlitt, Godwin, and other modern critics on Chapman's translation. Coleridge, writing to Wordsworth, says of it:—

"Chapman I have sent in order that you might read the *Odyssey*; the *Iliad* is fine, but less equal in the translation, as well as less interesting in itself. [This is surely not sound.] What is stupidly said of Shakespeare is really true and appropriate of Chapman: 'Mighty faults counterpoised by mighty beauties.' Excepting his quaint epithets, which he affects to render literally from the Greek, a language above all others blest in the happy marriage of sweet words, and which in our language are mere printers' compound epithets, such as *divine joy in the heart of man infusing wine*, (the undermarked is to be one word, because one sweet

mellifluous word expresses it in Homer); excepting this, it has no look, no air of a translation. It is as truly an original poem as the Faery Queen. It will give you a small idea of Homer, though a far truer one than Pope's epigrams, or Cowper's commentaries, most anti-Homeric Miltonisms. For Chapman writes and feels as a poet—as Homer might have written had he lived in England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In short, it is an exquisite poem, in spite of its frequent and perverse quaintness and harshnesses, which are, however, amply repaid by almost unexampled sweetness and beauty of language, all over spirit and feeling."

Mr. Monckton Milnes describes Keats's delight on reading it as intense, even to shouting aloud, as some passages of especial energy struck his imagination.

These extracts from modern writers are succeeded by a memoir of Chapman. From the scantiness of the memorials of him, this is necessarily almost entirely confined to an enumeration of his works, with the dates of their publication, and such facts as can be gathered from them relating to the circumstances of their production. It is needless to remind our readers that Chapman was the contemporary of Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Greene, Marlowe, and Marston. He was one of the "University pens" who wrote for the theatre, though his Greek scholarship was certainly not of the highest order. His first essay towards his version of Homer, which is our chief concern at present, was made in 1598, when he printed the first seven books of the *Iliad*. In the same year appeared the description of the shield of Achilles, from the eighteenth book. In 1600, according to Warton, but according to Mr. Hooper in 1603, appeared a thin folio containing the first fifteen books of the *Iliad*, with the magnificent Epistle Dedicatory to Prince Henry, from which we have quoted, with the poem, 'To the Reader,' and fourteen sonnets. In 1611, the complete translation of the *Iliad* was published, together with the prose preface, and the critical prolegomena, which, as Mr. Hooper observes, do not display very accurate scholarship. Indeed the English proper names in Chapman's *Hero and Leander*, reprinted in 'Bell's Annotated Edition of English Poets,' purporting to be formed from Greek words, show that Chapman, though competent to construe Homer with tolerable correctness, knew little of the genius of the Greek language. Thus we have *Ædone*, derived from *ἔδωκεν*. In 1614, he published the first twelve books of the *Odyssey*, and completed it in the following year. This argues the most marvellous rapidity of writing; but it is possible to believe him when he asserts that he wrote the last twelve books of the *Iliad* in fifteen weeks? It seems almost incredible; but if true, it abundantly accounts for his occasional harshness and obscurity. We all remember Sheridan's *mot*, that "easy writing is d—d hard reading."

For two hundred years Chapman was not reprinted. The only modern edition of his works that we possess is that of Dr. Cooke Taylor. This appeared in 1843, but from it were strangely omitted the preface, prefatory poems, and sonnets, all of which are of great interest. The dedication is in itself a beautiful poem, and the prefatory remarks in prose are amongst the earliest attempts at verbal criticism in the English language. They do not indeed show much scholarship, but they are full of poetic feeling. For instance, speaking of the transportation of Sarpedon's body to Lydia by Sleep and Death, he observes that Homer—

"Delivers us this most ingenious and grave doctrine in it, that the hero's body, for which both these mighty hosts so mightily contended, Sleep and Death (those same *quidam inania*) took from all their personal and solid forces, wherein he would further note to us, that from all the bitterest and deadliest conflicts and tyrannies of the world, Sleep and Death, when their worst is done, deliver and transfer men; a little mocking withal the vehement and greedy prosecutions of tyrants and soldiers against, or for, that which two such deedless poor things take from all their empery."

In the present edition, Mr. Hooper, as he informs us, has taken great pains to obtain a correct text; and, rejecting that of Dr. Cooke Taylor, who, it appears, followed an inferior edition, has adopted the reading of the two complete editions which appeared in the author's life-time. At the foot of the page are some necessary glossarial notes, with a few philological illustrations from other poets. They are neatly done and short, and those who have tried the experiment will be aware that brevity of annotation is the result, not of carelessness, but of labour. The first two volumes only have yet been published. These contain the *Iliad*; and we look forward with pleasure to the appearance of the succeeding three, which will include the *Odyssey* and the *Homerian* hymns.

Memoirs of the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., &c. Published by the Trustees of his Papers, Lord Mahon (now Earl Stanhope), and the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. Vol. II. Murray.

[Second Notice.]

In the memoir on the Corn Laws, which conducts us to the final resignation of Sir Robert Peel and his colleagues in July, 1846, Sir Robert presents a very complete view, not only of the circumstances which gradually led him to take up the question of repeal, but of the progress of his opinions on that subject, from the period of his entrance into public life. At an early age he adopted the then prevalent doctrine of protection, in common with such men as Parnell and Ricardo amongst the political economists, and Russell, Canning, and Huskisson amongst the statesmen. But although he held to the doctrine of protection as an abstract principle, he practically conceded, even so far back as 1828, and afterwards in 1842, the necessity of adapting the amount of protection to the exigency of circumstances. The old law of 1815 was up to a prohibitory standard, being founded on what Baron Brumback in the farce calls the "pastoral idea" that wheat could not be grown in this country, except at a dead loss, under eighty shillings a quarter! When Sir Robert Peel proposed, in the cabinet of 1842, a diminution of the import duties on foreign grain, having in 1828 obtained a preliminary modification of the old law, he was met by murmurs and even by open opposition. The Duke of Buckingham resigned, rather than be a party to so destructive a measure; and it was not without considerable difficulty that Sir Robert could obtain the requisite amount of support from his colleagues to enable him to bring his Bill into Parliament. He ultimately succeeded in carrying it against a variety of obstacles, and thus laid the foundation of the larger reform which confers an historical lustre upon the administration of 1845-6.

The reports which reached government of the failure of the potatoe crop, beginning in August with intelligence from the Isle of

Wight, and then gradually spreading over the kingdom, especially in Ireland, form the immediate ground upon which Sir Robert relies in this memoir for the justification of his subsequent policy. He collects a number of notes which passed almost daily between him and the Home Secretary, Sir James Graham, throughout that anxious period, showing, from hour to hour, the accumulating evidence of disease developing itself as the season advanced, and placing beyond all doubt the imperative necessity of devising some speedy and decisive remedy. The full truth could not be known until the digging began in November, and in the meanwhile Sir Robert sent over Professor Lindley and Dr. Lyon Playfair to Ireland, to report upon the real character of the evil to be apprehended. On the 15th October, Sir Robert Peel wrote to the Home Secretary—

"Interference with the due course of the laws respecting the supply of food is so momentous and so lasting in its consequences, that we must not act without the most accurate information. I fear the worst. I have written to the Duke also."

Two days afterwards, Sir James Graham replied:

"The suspension of the existing corn laws on the avowed admission that its maintenance aggravates the evil of scarcity, and that its remission is the surest mode of restoring plenty, would render its re-enactment or future operation quite impracticable; yet if the evil be as urgent as I fear it will be, to this suspension we must be driven."

Here is the whole question indicated in a few words. We need not trace the alarm that rapidly gained ground in all parts of the kingdom, the cries that rose up in Ireland, and the increasing pressure of the anti-corn law agitation as the perils of the restrictive system became more and more manifest. Such were the circumstances under which Sir Robert Peel summoned his cabinet on the 31st October, and read to its members all the information that had reached government during the preceding three months. He re-assembled them again on the following day, and, according to his practice on such occasions, submitted to them a memorandum in writing, containing his own views of what ought to be done. The document will be valuable to the future historian, from the light it throws into recesses of the questions which would otherwise be left in darkness. In this memorandum, Sir Robert did not insist upon a change in the law, but he intimated the urgent necessity of calling Parliament immediately together, with the certainty before them that they must either maintain, modify, or suspend the existing corn law. Serious differences were expressed in the cabinet, not only as to the necessity for adopting extraordinary measures, but as to the nature of the measures it might be considered advisable to adopt. It was against these obstacles, which grew graver and less manageable as the 6th of November approached, when ministers were to meet again, that Sir Robert had to contend in this difficult crisis. Even the parliamentary sections were easier of control than the cabinet protectionists. Sir Robert was so conscious of impending dissensions, that on the day before the meeting of the cabinet he apprized her Majesty of "the probability of serious differences of opinion."

He had not miscalculated the result. Submitting another written memorandum to his colleagues, he laid his plan before them—which was to issue an order of council for opening the ports at a certain rate of duty, and remitting to one shilling the duty on grain in bond; Parliament to be called

together solely for the purpose of granting an indemnity, and then to be prorogued, with an announcement that a modification of the existing law would be proposed immediately after the recess. Had a shell burst in the chamber where the ministers sat when this memorandum was read to them, it could not have produced greater consternation. Only three members supported the proposals—Lord Aberdeen, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Sydney Herbert. The others, to use the mellow phraseology of Sir Robert, "withheld their sanction."

Sir Robert, finding himself in so small a minority, at first thought of resigning; but a strong sense of duty determined him to remain in office; and the cabinet separated on the 6th of November, with the understanding that it was to be summoned towards the end of the month for the purpose of considering any additional information that might be received. That information was of the most melancholy character, and to increase the perplexities of the political *imbroglio*, Lord John Russell, always adroit in moments of extremity, addressed the city of London on the subject of the corn law, which he denounced as "the blight of commerce and the bane of agriculture." This looked as if the Whig party were preparing to unite their strength with the League; so that the pressure on the cabinet assumed a considerably more formidable aspect than before.

The cabinet re-assembled on the 25th. Instructions to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland as to the course he was to follow were agreed upon, and Sir Robert placed before his colleagues his final memorandum recommending the suspension of the law. About the same time he circulated another paper containing his reasons for proposing that measure, intimating in his accompanying note to the Duke of Wellington that he had "thought it right to mention confidentially to the Queen that he feared there were serious differences in the cabinet as to the measures which the emergency required." From some of his colleagues he received answers, which are here preserved; and very curious they are as illustrations of the variety of views taken by able men and clear thinkers of the crisis and the policy it demanded. Lord Ripon, familiar to an earlier day as "Prosperity Robinson," was anxious for delay, in the hope, not only of keeping Peel in office, where he thought his presence essential, but of being able to devise some equivalent for such amount of "protection" as it might be necessary to repeal. The Duke of Wellington writes:—

"I am one of those who think the continuance of the corn law essential to the agriculture of the country in its existing state, and especially to that of Ireland, and a benefit to the whole community."

Having laid down this dogma, he goes on to say that "if it is necessary to suspend the corn law, to avoid real evils resulting from scarcity of food, we ought not to hesitate; but," he adds, with his far-reaching sagacity, "I recommend that we should be convinced of the necessity, and make every effort to convince others of its existence." The rest of the Duke's memorandum is very striking. He expresses doubts whether Peel could carry on the government without the support of the landed interest, which he apprehends would be withdrawn from him in the event of a suspension of protection, and then frankly states what he is himself prepared to do under any circumstances:—

"In respect to my own course, my only object in public life is to support Sir Robert Peel's administration of the government for the Queen.

"A good government for the country is more important than corn laws or any other consideration; and as long as Sir Robert Peel possesses the confidence of the Queen and of the public, and he has the strength to perform the duties, his administration of the government must be supported.

"My own judgment would lead me to maintain the corn laws.

"Sir Robert Peel may think that his position in Parliament and in the public view requires that the course should be taken which he recommends; and if that should be the case, I earnestly recommend that the cabinet should support him, and I for one declare that I will do so."

Mr. Goulburn was against Peel's proposals. He felt alarmed at the consequence, and thought it would prejudice the character of the whole party as public men. The most remarkable point in his letter is a frank confession that he cannot understand how the repeal of the corn laws could afford any relief to the distress of the country. Lord Wharncliffe was of opinion that there was no case made out to warrant any interference with the existing protection, and was for throwing the question upon Parliament—"language," writes Lord Stanley, "very suitable to an Opposition, or to independent members of Parliament, but not to a government."

Unmoved by these conflicting elements Sir Robert persevered, and the cabinet discussions were protracted till the 5th of December. It then became evident that although he had overcome the objections of all the other members, there were two invincible dissentients—Lord Stanley and the Duke of Buccleuch. Believing that with a party thus broken up he could not conduct his measure to a successful issue, he resigned. The only alternative open to the Queen was to send for Lord John Russell. During the negotiations and inter-communications which now took place, it was clearly ascertained that none of the members of Sir Robert Peel's cabinet, including the two who differed from him, would undertake the task of forming a government; so that the administration was fairly in the hands of the Whigs, with the popular gale of the League in their favour. After a full consultation with his friends, Lord John stated to Her Majesty that "he was ready to undertake the formation of a government;" and Sir Robert Peel was accordingly invited by Her Majesty to "a parting interview on his relinquishment of office." The scene that occurred on this occasion is highly dramatic, and must be told in the words of the narrator:—

"I repaired to Windsor Castle at the time appointed.

"On entering the room Her Majesty said to me very graciously, 'So far from taking leave of you, Sir Robert, I must require you to withdraw your resignation, and to remain in my service.'"

The cause of this unexpected change of circumstances may be briefly explained. Just before Sir Robert's arrival, Her Majesty had received a letter from Lord John Russell, the first paragraph of which contains the solution of the mystery:—

"Lord John Russell presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and has the honour to state that he has found it impossible to form an administration."

The moment had now arrived when the fitness of the man for his position was to be tested. The Queen observed that Sir Robert might require time for consultation with his

friends; he replied that his mind was made up, and, acting exactly as he had done in 1834, decided at once upon the resumption of office. That night, on his return to town, he summoned a meeting of his former colleagues. The account of what passed at that meeting may be gathered from the substance of a letter addressed by Sir Robert immediately afterwards to the Queen:—

"It appears that Sir Robert Peel, having left Her Majesty at four o'clock, met his colleagues at his house in Downing-street, the same evening, at half-past nine. All the members of the cabinet were present except Lord Granville Somerset.

"Sir Robert Peel informed them that he had not summoned them for the purpose of deliberating on what was to be done, but for the purpose of announcing to them that he was Her Majesty's minister, and whether supported or not, was firmly resolved to meet Parliament as Her Majesty's minister, and to propose such measures as the public exigencies required. Failure or success must depend upon their decision; but nothing could shake Sir Robert Peel's determination to meet Parliament and to advise the speech from the Throne.

"Lord Stanley declared that he must persevere in resigning; that he thought the corn laws ought to be adhered to, and might have been maintained.

"The Duke of Buccleuch, thinking that new circumstances had arisen, would not at once decide upon resigning.

"The other members of the cabinet stated their determination to support Sir Robert Peel in the course he had announced to them."

The result was a crowning triumph, worthy of this long combat with difficulties of a painful and complicated character. On the 15th of the following May, the Bill for the Repeal of the Corn Laws was read a third time in the House of Commons. How much the country is indebted to Sir Robert Peel for that measure cannot be fully understood by any person who has not read this volume with attention.

Two years afterwards, writing to Lord Aberdeen and reviewing these transactions, Sir Robert Peel states that, in December, 1845, he thought the repeal necessary, and that he was determined to carry it, as failure, after having proposed it, would have involved the country in the most serious evils. Referring to the opinion of some Lord —, who seems to have thought that Sir Robert should have opened his intentions more fully to his party, he observes:—

"It was impossible to reconcile the repeal of the corn laws by me with the keeping together of the Conservative party, and I had no hesitation in sacrificing the subordinate object, and with it my own political interests. It is a very difficult matter under any circumstances to convey information to a political party as to the intention of a minister in regard to questions which are intimately connected with great commercial speculations and great pecuniary gains and losses; it is ten times more difficult to make such communications to a selected few. Times are changed since a prime minister, after ascertaining the sentiments of the Marquis of Hertford and the Duke of Rutland and the Earl of Lonsdale, could form a pretty good guess of the inclinations and probable conduct of a whole party."

There was not time to hold separate communications with "Lord This and Mr. That, and go through the whole series of facts and arguments." That could be done only by a full statement of the case in Parliament. What follows is of wider interest and importance than the transactions to which it directly applies:—

"I am perfectly satisfied that if at any time between the 1st of November and the day on which

(having resumed the government, on which neither Lord John Russell nor Lord Stanley would venture) I announced in the House of Commons the intended repeal of the corn laws, and had tried to gain acquiescence, either by belabouring individuals separately, or by summoning the party generally, I should have received scarcely one promise of support. I should have had on the part of the most moderate a formal protest against the course I intended to pursue; to the most violent I should have given facilities for organized opposition; I should have appeared to be flying in the face of a whole party, and contumaciously disregarding their opinion and advice after I had professed to consult them; but (what is of infinitely more importance) I should have failed in carrying the repeal of the corn laws.

"Now, I was resolved not to fail. I did not fail; and if I had to fight the battle over again, I would fight it in the same way. Lord —'s way was certain of defeat."

This is the moral for all time to come of the story of the repeal of the corn laws. When the dogma of Protection shall have become a tradition difficult of comprehension, this course of action will serve as a light to the feet of future ministers. If Sir Robert Peel had done no more in the preparation of his Memoirs than exhibit the means by which he carried his great commercial measure, he would have stamped a permanent value on this work. But it is also admirable in other aspects, as the reflection of the mind of a wise and self-sacrificing statesman, and as a collection of important facts connected with the three most memorable domestic events in the annals of the last thirty years.

Quedah; or, Stray Leaves from a Journal in Malayan Waters. By Captain Sherard Osborn, R.N., C.B. Longman and Co.

This historian of the Discovery of the North-West Passage, and the author of 'Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal,' rightly deeming that not only the nature of his subject but the graces of his style have recommended two former works to the public, produces in this volume some earlier records of his seafaring life. In the hands of so pleasant a writer, every species of adventure, and every variety of climate—

"Whether where equinoctial fervours glow,
Or winter wraps the polar world in snow,"

are rendered attractive, whilst such a remote and obscure transaction as the blockade of Quedah has at length met with its *vates sacer*. Although the events narrated are too insignificant for history, there is something beyond mere personal adventure and local description to be gathered from these pages. Captain Osborn, from his youthful intercourse with the Malay race, has acquired impressions favourable to their courage and ability. His book may be read as a sort of apology on behalf of a nation respecting whom our ideas are for the most part hostile and contemptuous. Whilst the reader is surprised to find an advocate of this people in the person of a British officer, he will remember that at the period in question our author was a midshipman of seventeen, when the *couleur de rose* was on every object, and that the first boatswain and crew whom he commanded were members of the Malay fraternity. With them he first learned the habits of command, shared his earliest perils and adventures, and carried out a variety of small enterprises, which trained him by the best kind of education to the exercise of more onerous powers.

It should be premised that this narrative

carries the reader back nineteen years in the annals of the East, when Singapore was in its infancy, before steam had multiplied the commerce and laid open the ports of the East. At that time the state of affairs in the Malayan peninsula seems to have been as follows. Quedah, a flourishing state and city on the western shore of the peninsula, had always been considered a Malay state, though possibly it had been a bone of contention for ages between the Emperor of Siam and the Emperor of Malacca, as either power happened to be in the ascendant. When the Malay empire was crushed by the Portuguese in 1511, the Rajah of Quedah became a subject of the Emperor of Siam. According to Captain Osborn, however, the East India Company showed little regard to sovereign rights when it suited their purpose; for in 1786 they purchased the island of Penang, not from the Emperor of Siam, but from the Rajah of Quedah. In 1838, however, the period of which this narrative speaks, matters had changed. Then the Malays, who, after assembling in force on the island of Sumatra, had succeeded in gaining independent possession of Quedah, were treated as rebels to the Siamese monarch, and as pirates according to the law of nations. Hence the employment of Queen's ships to extirpate these courageous men, who were acting, after all, not without some prescriptive shadow of right, according even to European views; and hence the blockade of the coast of Quedah by H.M.S. *Hyacinth*, Col. Warren, and gunboats *Diamond*, *Pearl*, and *Emerald*. To the latter of these, under the command of Mr. Midshipman Osborn, the attention and interest of the reader is henceforward confined. The crew consisted of Malays, principally discharged criminals, in the pay of the Company; the serang or boatswain, one Jadee, was the most notorious jail-bird, the greatest scamp, and the best hand at feasting or fighting in the crew; the interpreter, Jambo, was a fawning abject slave, a half-caste, the offspring of some Malay woman, as he boasted, by a British officer. Such are the *dramatis personæ*, and their adventures, sayings, and doings are forthwith recorded with the gaiety and light-heartedness peculiar to the age and the circumstances of the writer. The young commander, aided always by the faithful Jadee, harries bees' nests, hunts alligators, attacks pelicans and cranes, with more or less success, until a more exciting chase is afforded by the attempt of one of the enemy's prahus to break the blockade. The pursuit and final capture of this vessel is one of the most spirited of the sketches. It must be understood that the chase was being carried on after ten o'clock at night:—

"All right," exclaimed Jadee, "we will have her—there is a twenty-mile run for her to the Bountings, and before that ground is gone over the fog will have cleared off and the wind fall." "How if she hauls up, and goes to the northward?" I suggested. "No Malay man tries to sail against the wind with a prahu, when the white man is in chase of him, Touhan!" said Jadee; "and if Soubo's description of this vessel is correct, she is one of the war-prahus of Mahomet Ale's fleet!"

"Under this pleasing anticipation Jadee got quite excited; and I must say I joined in the feeling as the gun-boat listed to the breeze, and her dashing crew bent with a will to their oars. The zealous Camper handed to Jadee the longest and ugliest creese in his stock, and I observed all the men stick their short knives in their girdles ready for a fray. 'No prahu yet!' I exclaimed, after running two or three miles through the mist. 'We will

catch her!' responded Jadee; and almost as he said the word, we seemed to be aboard of a large-sized prahu, running the same way as ourselves. There was a yell of delight from the Number *Three*, as my crew styled themselves, and one as of astonishment from the prahu; but in a moment she, what is termed, jibbed her sails, and slipped out of sight again before we could dip our heavy yards and lug-sails. Altering our course so as to intercept her in her evident intention to seek a hiding-place in the Bounting Islands, the bow-gun was cleared away and loaded with grape, ready to knock away her masts when another opportunity offered. Again we run almost upon her, our sails being at the time boomed out 'wing and wing.' 'Lower your sails, and surrender!' Jadee shouted, as I fired, and brought down her mainsail. For a minute her capture seemed certain, but we had to deal with no novice. As we shot past the prahu, going nearly eight knots, she dropped her foresail, put her helm hard down, and long before our sails could be furled and the gun-boat's head got round, the villanous prahu was out of sight astern. I fancy I swore; for Jadee called the lost prize a 'd—d poul,' which she most decidedly was not, and added that he evidently was 'a pig!' and would not fight."

"We still determined to adhere to our original course, confident of the prahu having no shelter nearer than the islands, and were rewarded as the mist cleared away by again sighting her. I soon saw that we were by far the faster sailer with the fresh breeze then blowing, and determined not to let her escape me this time. I proposed, if three or four men would follow me, to jump on board of her, and prevent her escape, until the gun-boat got fairly alongside. Jadee at once seized the idea, and only so far altered it as to persuade me, through the assistance of the interpreter, that the Malays in the prahu would be more likely to surrender quietly to a countryman who could assure them of quarter, than they would be at the sight of a naval officer, when fright alone might make them run a muck, and cause a needless loss of life."

"Accordingly, Jadee and his three boarders stood ready at the bow, and, looking at them as they stood on the gunwale, eagerly eyeing the prahu as we rushed at her, they would have made a fine study for a painter. They were nearly naked, with the exception of a sarong wrapped round the left arm, to ward off such blows as might be aimed at them; in the waist-belt, across the small of their backs, each had stuck his creese, and a sharp short cutlass dangled from their wrists. Strange sights indeed do travellers see! but, for disinterested devotion and bravery, I question whether a finer example could be shown than that of these dark-skinned subjects of Queen Victoria."

"As we closed the prahu, no answer was returned to our hail to surrender. 'All ready!' said Jadee, swinging himself almost out of the rigging with eagerness. 'Look out!' I shouted, and fired again at the sails. The prahu repeated her old manoeuvre, but we checked her this time, for as our side scraped her stern, Jadee and his followers leapt into her with a shout. Our sails were down in a trice, and we swept alongside of the prize; and, having heard so much as I had done of the desperate character of Malays, I was not a little delighted to find that they had, in this case, surrendered without resistance, directly Jadee made himself master of their helm, and announced his intention, with a vicious wave of his abominable creese, to maintain it against all comers until the gun-boat got alongside."

"The vessel had been a war-prahu; but her breast-work for the guns had been removed, and, in the peaceful character of a trader, she was, we afterwards found, employed to keep up the communication between the Malay chieftains in Quedah province and their friends in Penang. The emissary upon this occasion we made a prisoner of; the vessel we respected as a trader, but forced her to return into Quedah."

The prisoner preserves his Oriental dignity to the last, but is afterwards condemned to the ignominious but peaceful occupation of sweep-

ing and keeping in order the fortifications of Fort William at Calcutta.

An investigation of the process of edible birds'-nest hunting is one of the interesting episodes of Mr. Osborn's blockading operations. He chases a prahu, and finds that the crew are engaged in this harmless commercial speculation. The author says:—

"My attention had often been previously called to the little birds which construct these curious nests. They might be constantly seen skimming about the surface of the sea in the neighbourhood of the Malayan Islands. In form and feather they looked like a connecting link between the common swallow and the smallest of the petrel tribe,—the Mother Carey's chicken—ever restless, ever in motion. Sometimes they appeared to skim the water as if taking up some substance with the bill from the surface; at other times darting, turning, and twisting in the air, as if after fleet-winged insects. Yet neither in the air nor on the water could the keenest eye amongst us detect anything upon which they really fed. However, the Malays asserted that they fed upon insects and upon minute creatures floating upon the surface of the sea; and that, by some arrangement of the digestive organs, the bird, from its bill, produced the glutinous and clear-looking substance of which its nest was constructed—an opinion in some manner substantiated by the appearance of the nests, which in structure resembled long filaments of very fine vermicelli, coiled one part over the other, without much regularity, and glued together by transverse rows of the same material."

"In form, the edible nests resemble the bowl of a large gravy-spoon split in half longitudinally, and are, in all respects, much smaller than the common swallow's nest. The bird fixes the straight edge against the rocks, generally preferring some dark and shady crevice in a cliff, or a cave formed by the wash of the waves of the sea. I am rather inclined to believe that the swallow which constructs these edible nests is a night bird, and that the day is by no means its usual time for feeding; indeed, I hardly ever remember observing them, except early in the morning, late in the evening, or in the deep shadow afforded by some tall and overhanging cliff, and they appeared to avoid sunlight or the broad glare of day."

He joins the hunting party, determined to see everything with his own eyes:—

"At last we reached the edge of the cliff, which stood about 200 feet above the sea, having many deep fissures in its face and several caves at its base. After sitting down to rest for a short time, the Malays went to work. Each man drove his spike very carefully in the ground, secured his rope to it, slung his bag and torch across his back, and, after repeating a Mahometan Pater-noster, lowered himself down the cliff by means of his rope, and proceeded to search the caves and crannies for birds'-nests. Accustomed though I was, as a sailor, to see great activity and much risk run, still it fell far short, in my estimation, of that undergone by these Malays: in some places they had to vibrate in the air like a pendulum, to gather sufficient momentum to swing in under some overhanging portion of the cliff, the wretched rope by which the man was suspended a hundred feet above the chafing sea and rocks below, cutting against the sharp edge of the cliff, to use a nautical simile, 'like a rope-yarn over a nail.' Here and there the men picked up a nest or two, but at last one of them who had lowered himself down to within ten or twelve feet of the water, shouted out that he had discovered a cave thickly tenanted with the birds, of which we had ocular demonstration by the numbers that flew out when they heard his voice."

"Leaving Jambo to help me, should I fail in climbing up as the Malays did, I slid down to the newly-discovered cave of nests. The nest-seekers smiled at my curiosity, and pointed into a cave with a narrow entrance, out of which a smell was issuing which partook neither of frankincense nor

myrrh, and of an inky darkness which the keenest eye could not penetrate. There was a narrow ledge of rock which led into the cave, and on this we advanced until out of the wind and daylight: the Malay now struck a light and lit his torch, and his doing so was the signal for the most infernal din mortal ears were ever pained with; the tiny chirp of the swallows being taken up and multiplied a thousandfold by the beautiful echoes of the cave, whilst huge bats flitted round us, and threatened not only to put our light out, but to knock us off the narrow ledge on which we stood, by a rap on the head, into the black cleft below, which seemed to descend to the very foundations of the cliffs. Holding both hands to my ears, I asked the Malay to show me the nests: he waved his torch about, and pointed some of them out in spots overhead, where it appeared as if only a gnome could have gathered them; the poor Malay, however, explained to me that he must go up and cut some saplings and branches to form a ladder by which he could reach those apparently inaccessible nests, though not, I could well see, without considerable risk. Satisfied with what I had seen, I returned to the top of the cliff, aided materially by the Malay, who, like a goat, found footing where gulls could only have roosted, and, joining Jambou, we returned alone through the forest to my little craft."

Descriptions of natural marvels—of the peculiar growths of a Malayan forest—of the schools of monkeys, absurd caricaturists of humanity—of wild and strange scenery, are mixed up with the excitement of chasing and fighting prahus, and with various legends of Malayan superstition—amongst others, of a monstrous snake, whose wrath had to be appeased every now and then by the offering of a virgin daughter of the royal family of Quedah. On one occasion the commander of the *Emerald* is threatened with mutiny by his strange crew, a movement which he quells with remarkable address; and upon another occasion he ventures, with salutary effect, upon the dangerous expedient of flogging a refractory Malay. The result of the war operations may be briefly described. The Siamese army comes pouring down into the peninsula, its progress marked by the columns of smoke which are seen rising inland. The unfortunate Malays, condemned as pirates by the British, are driven closer into the town of Quedah, from which they are prevented by the blockade from escaping by sea. At length the crisis comes: the unhappy women and children of the community crowd into their boats, and after an idle attempt to escape the squadron unseen by night, put themselves under the protection of the English vessels. Scenes of strange confusion are described as abounding everywhere. Several births take place in the boats, at one of which the writer, a middy of eighteen, is implored to offer his medical aid. He says:—

"I never was so puzzled in all my life; and finding escape from their importunities impossible, I consented to give the only assistance in my power. The husband, delighted, shouted for the prahu to come alongside, and I heard him jump on board of her, shouting that the white doctor was coming, while I went below for my prayer-book. Jadee and I then went on board, and after much squeezing reached a miserable little cabin, inside which, behind a screen, and surrounded by a crowd of women, the poor sufferer lay. Jadee, fully impressed with the idea that I was about to perform some incantation only second to his recipe for 'killing the wind,' looked as solemn and nervous as if he expected a demon to be instantly raised. My medicine was, however, a very simple one: I made Jadee hold a lantern, and desiring all around me to be silent, I proceeded to read a few prayers from my prayer-book, addressed to Him who is the merciful God alike of Malay and white

man; and then ordering the woman a good cup of tea from my little stock, I told the husband that God was great, and that, if He pleased, all would be well, and returned to my own vessel, leaving those in the prahu evidently much impressed with my value as a Bedan. In due time, about daybreak, one of my scampish crew held up on board the prahu a diminutive reddish-looking morsel of humanity, and assured me the lady was as 'well as could be expected,' the wag informing me that he recommended the baby to be called after our gunboat, 'Numero Tega!' a name almost as characteristic as that of the sailor's child, who, to insure having a long one—none of your Jems and Bills—was christened 'Ten Thousand Topsailsheetblocks.'"

That another essential element of romance may not be wanting, the young commander finds himself the protector of a young Malayan princess, a houri of twelve, for the particular description of whom, and the incident by which her life was saved, we must refer to his pages. The reader is amused to find that, after all the enterprise of the gunboat and her crew, the wily chieftain of the besieged party manages to elude their vigilance and escape.

Observations by William Martin Leake, F.R.S., on some of the Articles in Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography. Murray.

THIS is a book of small bulk and pretension, but of great merit and utility. We wish that other first-rate men, like Colonel Leake, who are specially strong on particular subjects, would thus give us the benefit of their criticisms on new dictionaries and cyclopædias. The standard of these useful collections of knowledge would be thus greatly raised; and publishers would, perhaps, in expectation of such criticisms, moderate the hard haste with which they now proceed to stereotyping, and compel the editors of these works to renounce the benefit of second thoughts.

Colonel Leake deals in these pages with the subjects of thirty-five of the articles in Dr. Smith's well-known Dictionary. The greater number of the thirty-five are Greek subjects; none are Italian. Many of the criticisms are on points of detail; very valuable to the classical student, but of not much interest to an ordinary reader. But in dealing with some of his topics, Colonel Leake's observations have a much more general literary and geographical importance. This is especially the case with his comments on *Ægyptus*, *Athenæ*, *Ilium* and *Nassamones*, *Nilus* and *Nigir*. Colonel Leake (like his gallant comrade in each presidency of Minerva, Colonel Mure) stands up nobly for the reality and the accuracy of Homer, and for the substantial truth of 'the tale of Troy divine.' The whole of his remarks (from p. 34 to p. 50) are well worth perusal. And as we are obliged to mourn over the heresy of Mr. Grote on these cardinal points of poetical faith, we rejoice to see in Colonel Leake a persevering champion in the great cause of Homeric orthodoxy against what he truly calls "the hypercriticism and 'too much learning' of the German school." At another part of the book (p. 14, article *ATHENÆ*), Colonel Leake deals a quiet but effective stroke at the fondness which prevails with many Englishmen at present for German guides in the old classical world:—

"A celebrated Prussian archaeologist remarks, that 'in Germany, beyond the professional men of education, a smaller number reads learned historical works than in England;' but that 'a never-resting machinery is at work, exciting an immense num-

ber of incompetent writers and young men to make themselves a reputation by doubting whatever has been said before them.' (Bunsen, in 'Life and Letters of Niebuhr,' p. xii.) Untravelled German scholars of high attainments are sometimes liable to a similar imputation; nor are our own great historians of Greece free from that of having bestowed too much attention and placed too much reliance on German authorities in preference to those of England, without reflecting that English geographers are generally *αὐτόπτοι*, while the Germans are seldom more than speculators upon English information. Mr. Grote, as well as the editor of the 'Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography,' has adopted that new theory of Athenian topography which includes a considerable portion of the falls of Hymettus within the eastern walls of the city, and places Phalerum at Trispyrghi on the eastern promontory of the Phaleric bay. Without the strongest monumental evidence, which in this case is totally wanting, I find it impossible to assent to either of these bold innovations."

Colonel Leake gives us, at the end of this volume, a second edition of a paper on 'The Greek Stade as a Linear Measure,' which was published in 1839, in the 'Journal of the Geographical Society.' No scholar will read this dissertation without interest; and few can read it without improvement. Colonel Leake completely confutes the theory, which many eminent modern geographers have maintained—namely, that "the ancients in computations of distance employed stades of several lengths." He shows that it is impossible thus to reconcile either the discrepancies which occur in applying ancient distances to true measurements on a globe or map, or the conflicting statements of the ancient mathematicians as to the measure of the perimeter of the globe. He attributes these errors and contradictions to the loose systems of calculating distances, which the ancients were compelled to employ through their want of portable instruments for measuring the portions of a day, and to their "preference of system to the collection of facts, that besetting sin of philosophers of all ages and in every branch of science." His concluding words are:—

"These and other preceding observations are not intended to support an opinion that the distances reported in ancient history are generally unworthy of the notice of the investigator of ancient geography. On the contrary, they furnish some of his most valuable materials: always, however, to be examined with suspicious criticism, and to be corroborated, if possible, by other testimony, but not to be adjusted by a varying scale of stades derived from a supposed measurement of the globe by some unknown ancient people: for if geology agrees with sacred history in showing that man has not long been an inhabitant of this planet, geographical inquiry tends equally to the persuasion that his goodly freehold has never yet been surveyed; though the present age has made great advances in this useful undertaking."

We ought to mention that Colonel Leake gives valuable and just testimonial of his praise to the general merit of the 'Geographical Dictionary' which Dr. Smith is editing. It is at the same time worth observing, that the particular articles in the Dictionary, which are here most censured for inaccuracy as to fact or opinion, are contributed by writers who are notorious for their German education or German bias.

The articles written by Mr. Bunbury, and other, genuine English scholars, have passed the ordeal of Colonel Leake's criticism without a blemish.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Kingdom and People of Siam: with a Narrative of the Mission to that Country in 1855. By Sir John Bowring, F.R.S. 2 vols. John W. Parker and Son.

From Bombay to Buxihire and Bussora: with a Sketch of the Present State of Persia, and Notes on the Persian War. By William Ashton Shepherd. Bentley.

On some Disputed Questions of Ancient Geography. By William Martin Leake, F.R.S. With a Map. Murray.

Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English. Compiled by Thomas Wright, M.A., F.S.A. Vol. II. H. G. Bohn.

Thought and Study in Europe, from the Foundation of the Universities to the Reformation. Bell and Daldy.

The Second Wife: a Novel. 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

Salt Waters. By the Author of 'Dorothy.' 2 vols. John W. Parker and Son.

Deeds; or, Fireside Readings for Household Servants. By the Rev. Norman Macleod. Edinburgh: Constable and Co.

Tobacco: its History, Cultivation, Manufacture, and Adulterations. By Andrew Steinmetz, Esq. Bentley.

The Burnish Family. Glasgow: Scottish Temperance League.

An Introduction to the Study of Æsthetics. By James C. Moffat. Cincinnati: Moore and Co.

The Abbey, and other Poems. By T. N. Beasley. Madden.

The Chain of Lilies, and other Poems. By W. Brighty Standa. Knight and Son.

To the Philological Library of Mr. Bohn is added, in two volumes, a Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English, by Mr. Thomas Wright. In this Dictionary are included words from the English authors previous to the nineteenth century which are no longer in use, or are not used in the same sense, and words which are now used only in the provincial dialects. Mr. Wright has admitted not a few words which are only vulgarisms or bad spellings, but as they may be found in certain authors they may come within the scope of his work. For instance, blomonger, a dish in cookery, so written by Warner in 'Antiqui. Culin.' and noterer, for notary. Mr. Wright might as well put calamy for calamity; and there would be no end of such variations of mere spelling. Such words as sibtooths, fray, ropy, pummel, shift, upland, and many others, are not obsolete in the senses given in the explanations. Some odd meanings appear, such as loom (verb), to appear large, as by refraction at sea, a sense of the word not obsolete, and loom (substantive), a chimney, Durham. In the latter case, loom is only the local Durham and Yorkshire pronunciation of lum, the word still in common use for chimney in the Scottish lowlands. But these are only trivial defects in a work most valuable for reference, and deserving a place in the library of all students of old English literature, as well as of local and provincial peculiarities of language. Apt citations are frequently given as authorities in illustration of the use of words or of special meanings attached to them. Mr. Wright has availed himself of the researches of Mr. Halliwell, Archdeacon Nares, and other illustrators of archaic English, and also of the best glossaries of particular dialects, such as that of Northamptonshire, by Miss Baker; but the larger part of the work is evidently the result of his own extensive acquaintance with English literature and archæology. Considerable judgment is also shown in the choice of typical words, as specimens of various spellings from letters commonly interchangeable, without which selection the work could not have been confined within a reasonable compass.

Compilations and abridgements are the bane of history and philosophy. By means of them error and prejudice are popularized and perpetuated from age to age. Thought and Study in Europe, from the foundation of Universities to the Reformation, comes, we fear, within this category. To comprise anything like an accurate or philosophical history of the progress of knowledge and thought from the twelfth to the sixteenth century within the compass of a thin octavo volume of 111 pages, is manifestly impossible. A man of genius, however, might impart some idea of the state of philosophy and learning at different epochs, by means of graphic sketches of the great masters or schools of learning which took the lead in the intellectual race. Instead of that, we have dry dissertations and general assertions, which convey no distinct idea to the mind, and utterly fail to engage the attention. In the present state of philosophy it is a very weariness to read pages

upon pages occupied with pointing out the errors of our predecessors in the pursuit of wisdom, and trite and magniloquent panegyrics upon "the Father of Experimental Philosophy," as if we actually owed to him the discovery of the value of experience, and the means of using it with success; whereas, in reality, his system has been shown, by the editors of the excellent edition of his works which is now in course of publication, to be either chimerical or never to have been put in practice. Of all unreadable books a compilation of philosophical platitudes is the worst.

The Fireside Readings for Household Servants, by the Rev. Norman Macleod, were originally delivered as lectures at a servants' benevolent institution at Edinburgh. They are sensible, pious, and practical addresses to persons in that position of life. Besides the obvious and ordinary counsels on character and behaviour to be expected from a Christian minister, many shrewd and useful hints are given as to management of affairs, investment of savings, and provision against old age or lack of employment. A large and judiciously selected appendix contains extracts from many authors on subjects having special reference to domestics and household service.

The Burnish Family is a powerfully written and interesting tale, illustrating the evil effects of intemperance. It is the work which gained the first prize of fifty pounds, offered by the Scottish Temperance League, for the best Temperance tale. There were fifty-five competitors, and the prize was awarded, by the unanimous voice of the three adjudicators, to the author of The Burnish Family. The tale would have probably exerted greater influence, and been more likely to reach those who might be benefited by its perusal, had it been published as an independent work, without the name of the Temperance League on the title-page, and the terms of the competition being so prominently set forth in the preface. But this error of judgment does not affect the merit of the tale itself, which is well worth being carefully read and widely circulated.

The terms Æsthetic and Æsthetics seem now fairly naturalized in the English language on both sides of the Atlantic. Mere novelty does not suffice to repel them from received nomenclature, for all classical words have been new and strange at one period of their use. Neither can they be refused on the score of derivation, since many well understood and universally received terms now suggest ideas widely alien from their original signification. Yet we must be allowed to express a feeling, not altogether of cordiality, in meeting words not familiar like other old friends in English literature and philosophy. Mr. Ruskin proposes Theoretic in place of Æsthetics, but this has no possible advantage, with the positive disadvantage of being already engaged for expressing other ideas, at least in the adjective form of the word. By the study of Æsthetics we understand the study of the principles of taste in art, or the philosophy of the beautiful in human works, as distinct from the merely true or useful. Mr. Moffat, Professor of Greek in the College of New Jersey, Princeton, includes in his treatise the liberal as well as the fine arts; and his book is therefore an introduction to the principles of criticism in literature, as well as in painting, sculpture, architecture, music, and other departments of art. There are not always very clear principles of definition or arrangement throughout the work, but the subject is on the whole treated with ability, and most of the questions that suggest themselves to the student of art are fully discussed. References at the close of each chapter to the best authors on the special subject increase the value of the volume for purposes of study. In the United States the influence of an author in the position of Professor Moffat must be beneficial on the side of the ideal and spiritual in the struggle against the material and mechanical tendencies of the age. It is gratifying to find a manual of Æsthetics among the text books of an American college.

Mr. Beasley's verses have the merit of correctness and smoothness of metre, and occasionally display a vigour and feeling above the average of our

modern minstrels. The principal piece is a poem on Westminster Abbey, with reference chiefly to the mighty dead whose ashes are laid in that national temple. Some of the stanzas are well written, and the poem is pervaded by the patriotic spirit to be expected on such a theme. The verse is the Spenserian stanza.

New Editions.

Select Works of Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D. Edited by his Son-in-Law, the Rev. William Hanna, LL.D. Vol. XI. Edinburgh: Constable and Co.

Speeches on Social and Political Subjects, with Historical Introductions. By Henry Lord Brougham, F.R.S. Vol. I. Griffin and Co.

The Water-Cure: its Principles and Practice, &c. By James Wilson, M.D. Third Edition. Trübner and Co.

Who Wrote the Earlier Waverley Novels? By W. J. Fitzpatrick. Second Edition. E. Wilson.

Charles O'Malley, the Irish Dragoon. By Charles Lever. Vol. II. Chapman and Hall.

The Chainbearer: a Novel. By J. Fenimore Cooper. T. Hodgson.

The Rifle Rangers: a Novel. By Capt. Mayne Reid. T. Hodgson.

Edgar Huntly; or, the Sleep Walker. By Charles Brockden Brown. T. Hodgson.

The Scalp Hunters. By Capt. Mayne Reid. T. Hodgson.

Arrah Nook; or, Times of Old. By G. P. R. James. T. Hodgson.

A Manual of Prayers for the Use of the Scholars of Winchester College. By the Right Rev. Thomas Ken, D.D. A New Edition. J. H. and J. Parker.

VOLUME the Eleventh of the select works of Dr. Chalmers contains his treatises on the Parochial System, on Church Extension, and on Church and College Establishments, including the celebrated lectures delivered in London in 1838. In the lectures on the Use and Abuse of Literary and Ecclesiastical Endowments, Dr. Chalmers ably combated the *laissez faire* principle of Adam Smith as applied to education and religion. In trade and commerce it is all very well for a government to leave the course of matters to the direction of individual energy and interest, but the argument against the voluntary system in other social arrangements, especially in regard to education and religion, is founded on the want or the weakness of the natural aptency on such subjects. There is a spontaneous demand for material wealth and objects of comfort or luxury, which through free trade secures adequate supply; but there is not a natural demand for learning and for spiritual culture, and these therefore a wise government will encourage by endowments and by church and university establishments. Even on the lower ground of public health, it is now universally deemed right that there ought to be ample interference of the state with individual liberty and the arrangements of private interest. The philosophy of church and college endowments is fully expounded and illustrated in these lectures, which deserve to regain a share of public attention now that on the question of national education the old controversy as to the sufficiency of the voluntary system is revived. Another volume is to complete this edition of Dr. Chalmers' select works, containing the substance of what has before been published in twenty-eight volumes.

The first volume of Lord Brougham's *Speeches on Social and Political Subjects* forms the ninth volume in the collected edition of his works. Most of the speeches are selected from the octavo edition, in four volumes, published in 1838, but others are now inserted on subjects that retain their interest, which is not the case with all in the larger work. Among the subjects in the present volume are Military Flogging, two speeches; Queen Caroline; the Holy Alliance; Education; Law in Ireland, two speeches; Imprisonment for Debt; and Wellington speeches. The latter were delivered since the edition of the speeches in 1838, one at the Wellington Festival, at Dover, August 30th, 1839, and the other in the House of Lords, on the motion of the Address in November, 1852, referring to the loss the country had then recently sustained by his death. There is also the memorable speech on the army estimates in 1816, of which Lord Brougham lately spoke with satisfaction as having had great influence in compelling the ministry of the day to retrench the national expenditure. To most of the speeches brief historical introductions

are prefixed. A few footnotes are occasionally given, as in the speech on the Bedchamber question, May 31st, 1839. Speaking of the times of the Reform Bill, Lord Brougham said, "The vessel has undergone a thorough repair; not unnecessary for her security in the fairest weather, but in the stress of wind and waves absolutely required to give her a chance of safety." To which passage is appended the following note:—"Striking illustration of this was afforded by the 10th of April, 1848. The authors of the Reform might name this date, and say 'That is our case.'" To the same speech is appended a note with personal explanations relative to the proposed arrangements in 1841, by which Lord Brougham was offered the Vice-Presidency of the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords, as a separate salaried office, independent of political conditions. These volumes will form a most interesting and valuable record of public events in which Lord Brougham bore a conspicuous part.

Dr. Wilson, of Malvern, has published a third edition of his work *On the Principles and Practice of the Water-Cure*, in a cheaper and more portable form. The popular treatise on pathology, which formed part of the work as it originally appeared, is now omitted, but the instructive and entertaining dissertations on physiology, and all the practical portions relating to the water-cure, are reproduced with revisions and improvements. New cases are described, in which the practice of Dr. Wilson has been attended with remarkable results, and additional matter given, which renders the volume a most complete treatise on this department of hygienic philosophy and art. In a prefatory dissertation the principles of hydropathy are laid down in a sensible and temperate manner, no empiric claims being arrogated for the treatment, but the use of water in its various forms being merely represented as an important ally in any rational system of medicine and regimen. An interesting narrative is also given of the first formal adoption of the practice on a large scale by Friessnitz, and of its introduction to this country by Dr. Wilson on his return from the establishment of Friessnitz at Graefenberg. This edition is dedicated to Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer, as a recognition of his services in directing public attention to the merits and importance of hydropathy in his 'Confessions of a Water Patient.'

In Hodgson's series of Household Novels appear reprints of two of Captain Mayne Reid's most popular books—'The Rifle Rangers' and 'The Scalp Hunters,' and 'Arrah Neil,' one of the most readable of Mr. G. P. R. James' multitudinous tales. The Household Novels in typography and binding are a great improvement on the cheaper libraries of fiction that crowd the railway stalls. A shilling extra is well spent in relief to the strained eyes, while the volumes are presentable after being read, which cannot always be said of the paper-backed, ill-printed shilling books so much in vogue. To Hodgson's Parlour Library are added 'Edgar Huntley; or, the Sleep-Walker,' by Charles Brockden Brown, and 'The Chain-Bearer,' by J. Fenimore Cooper, a story that ought to be better known in this country, from the light it throws on various phases of American life, especially as to how things were managed in new settlements in the early periods of the Republic. The chief drawback to the pleasure of the reader is that there is too much Dutch jargon, the chain-bearer being of Dutch descent.

The *Manual of Prayers*, compiled for the use of the scholars of Winchester College, by the good Bishop Ken, is published in a neat and convenient form by the Messrs. Parker of Oxford. It is a book admirably calculated to aid the devotions and direct the religious feelings of young students in all times and places, though at first specially prepared for the Wykehamists of the seventeenth century. A biographical memoir of Bishop Ken is prefixed to the *Manual*, and appended are three hymns, which he also wrote for the use of the Winchester scholars, portions of two of which are now universally known as the *Morning and Evening Hymns* of our church psalmody. The *Morning*

Hymn, 'Awake my soul,' &c., as written by the Bishop, contains fourteen, and the *Evening Hymn* twelve verses. They are given in the original form in the present *Manual*.

Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

Five Years in India. By Lieut. L. H. Pulley. Part I. C. S. Burbidge.
The Opium Revenue of India. Allen and Co.
Contraband Opium Traffic, the Disturbing Element in all our Policy with China. By Major-General Alexander. Seeley and Co.
Systematic Instruction and Periodical Examination. By James Booth, LL.D., F.R.S. Bell and Daldy.
The Speculum: its Modern Tendencies. By F. R. C. S. Bosworth and Harrison.
Observations of the Permanent Way upon Opinions expressed at a late Meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers. J. B. Nichols and Sons.
The Evening Reader. A Monthly Journal. Conducted by Edward Gordon. No. 1. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

The first number of *Five Years in India*, a novel to be published in monthly parts, gives promise of a good story, with scenes and characters out of the commonplace beat of the novelists of the day. The author shows a familiar acquaintance with Indian military life, and with the most marked features of Society, both European and native, in the East, and considerable humour and cleverness appear in the opening chapters of the tale, which we commend to the notice of all who have friends in the Indian service, or feel interest in the affairs of our eastern empire.

The opium traffic between the Indian empire and China appears, on the first blush of the subject, to afford fair scope for philanthropic indignation and Exeter Hall protests. A very slight inquiry into the facts of the case will dispel the growing delusion, and prevent a good deal of benevolent sympathy being wasted. The writer of a pamphlet on 'The Opium Revenue of India' gives an able and conclusive summary of the whole question, in its commercial and financial as well as in its social and philanthropic aspects. The government of India has no power over the demand for opium; and if it profits by it, the same is done by every government in the world that takes advantage of the demand for luxuries. Some of these luxuries may be liable to abuse, such as wine, spirits, or tobacco, but the revenue from the use of these articles is not regarded as tainted with evil. There is no reason for opium being otherwise viewed. Mr. Meadows, one of the best authorities on China, declares his deliberate opinion that, "as to the morality of producing, selling, and consuming opium and spirits there is no difference, while in the consequences of consumption the opium smoker is not so violent, so maudlin, or so disgusting, as the drunkard." In moderation, opium smoking is not more hurtful than tobacco. The Chinese labourers and artisans in Calcutta are the most industrious and well-behaved people in the community, and they all begin their day with a few whiffs of opium. The regular opium smoking houses, where gambling also is carried on, the police does not tolerate; and the Chinese ought also to enforce strict police regulations on their own territory, without meddling with the legitimate tastes or luxuries of their people. If the Indian government were to give up the monopoly of growing opium, and were to throw the cultivation open, the result would be that the supply would be increased, and opium of all qualities would go to market—good, adulterated, and spurious, and all kinds of desperate adventurers be invited into the contraband trade. The Chinese would be a hundredfold the sufferers by such a system in point of health and morals. At present the Indian government controls the quality and price of the opium, and, while benefiting its own revenue, prevents the increase of the very evils against which an outcry is now being made by well-meaning but ill-informed agitators.

The rejection in the House of Lords this week of Lord Shaftesbury's motion for a reference to the law officers of the crown on the illegality of the opium traffic with China, has for the present disposed of the public consideration of this question. Major-General Alexander's pamphlet on the *Contraband Opium Traffic* is a reprint of a series of letters that have appeared in the 'Morning Adver-

tiser,' in which he has strenuously advocated the interference of the Government to put a stop to proceedings which he describes as the disturbing element in all our policy and diplomatic interferences with China. Such arguments ought to be addressed to the court of Pekin, and the custom-house and police authorities of China. England has no call to interfere with traffic beyond the jurisdiction of the empire. The East India Company disposes of the opium grown in its territories to recognised merchants by public sale, and has no power over the farther destination of the drug. As to the moral considerations, in the absence of political arguments to the point, it can be shown that the evils of opium eating or opium smoking are not so great as those arising from excess in drinking spirituous liquors, or the abuse of other articles of legitimate trade and laudable use when taken in moderation. The proper field for this philanthropy would be to write tracts on the evils of opium smoking, to be translated into Chinese, and circulated in that country.

Dr. Booth's *Addresses on Systematic Instruction and Periodical Examinations*, were delivered, the former to the United Association of Schoolmasters, and the latter to the young men attending the evening classes at Crosby Hall, in the City. They contain useful hints on subjects of educational interest, especially the address on periodical examination, the advice in which on the right conduct of study may be profitably pondered by young men, whether aspiring to belong to the public service or not.

To medical practitioners, and through them to the public at large, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons utters a note of warning on the moral and social tendencies of the use of the speculum in female complaints, which is said to be becoming more frequent of late. In continental hospitals every practitioner is habituated to the employment of the instrument, and repugnance is rarely felt in private practice to usages which are repulsive to English principles and habits. There is no harm in this warning to the profession.

Observations on the Permanent Way Company, although at first appearing to bear only on the interests of the association having that name, deserve the attention of all who are engaged in engineering researches or experiments. The object of the company is to act as a kind of Board or Agency between the railway companies and engineers or inventors, for the purpose of examining and acquiring patents, and granting licenses for their use. Advantages are thus obtained which individual inventors could rarely hope to secure, and the public have additional security for the merit and safety of inventions in the construction of railways.

The *Evening Reader*, conducted by Edward Gordon, is a monthly journal, containing original papers and selected extracts from published works, the design being to contribute profitable reading for the domestic circle. Most of the articles in the first number are well suited for this object, though it seems almost superfluous to reprint among the extracts a piece so universally known as Longfellow's *Psalm of Life*.

List of New Books.

Binning's (R. B. M.) *Persia*, &c., 2 vols. 8vo, cloth, 41 s.
 Booker's (Rev. J.) *Osate Scripture Words*, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Bruce's (J. C.) *Handbook of English History*, 12mo, bound, 1s. 6d.
 Burnish Family, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Carey's (E.) *Memoir*, crown 8vo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
 Carter's (T. T.) *Doctrine of the Priesthood*, post 8vo, cloth, 1s.
 Casson's (M.) *Twine of Wayside Ivy*, post 8vo, cloth, 1s.
 Chaucer and Burns's *Poetical Works*, royal 8vo, 2s. 6d.
 Cheyne's (J. E.) *Parochial Sermons*, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Children at Home, 2nd edit., small 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Clarendon's (Lord) *Life*, 2 vols. royal 8vo, sheets, 11s.
 Downe's (Viscount) *Elementary English Grammar*, 18mo, cl. 1s.
 Duncan's (J.) *Bank Charter Act*, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Forbes (A. P.) on Amendment of Law, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Grant's (J.) *Philip Kello*, 12mo, boards, 2s. 6d.
 Helps's (A.) *Spanish Conquests in America*, 8vo, cl., Vol. III, 16s.
 Jermain's (H.) *Coats in Chancery*, 8vo, cloth, 5s. 6d.
 Ken's (Thomas A.) *Imitation of Christ*, fcap. 8vo, cl., 1s.
 Ken's (T.) *Manual of Prayers*, 18mo, cloth, 1s.
 Kin's (Rev. T.) *Five Lectures on Athanasian Creed*, 18mo, cl. 1s.
 Maddock's (A. B.) *Mental and Nervous Disorders*, 8vo, cl., 1s. 6d.
 MacCusker's (D.) *Sermons in Stones*, new edit., 18mo, cl., 1s. 6d.
 Main & Brown's *Questions on Marine Steam Engine*, 8vo, cl., 1s. 6d.
 Mallet's (D.) *Ballads and Songs*, new edit., 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
 Murray's *Perceval Keene*, 12mo, bds., 1s. 6d.; cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Mosman's (E. W.) *Sermons*, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Napier's (J.) *Electro-Metallurgy* (Ency. Met. Vol. 14), cl., 1s. 6d.
 Nelson's (T. G. F.) *Contributions to Vital Statistics*, 8vo, cl., 41 s.

Origen's Epistles, ed. by J. Jump, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
Paley's Natural Theology, with Notes by Brougham, 16mo, 3s. 6d.
Per Woffington, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Plain Words to the Wise in Heart, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Practical Mechanics' Journal, Vol. I., 2nd series, 4to, cl., 11s.
Rogers's Law and Practice of Elections, by D. Power, 12mo, £1 5s.
Second Wife, 3 vols. post 8vo, cloth, £1 11s. 6d.
Steinschneider's (M.) Jewish Literature, 8vo, cloth, 12s.
Slier's (K.) Words of the Lord Jesus, Vol. VI., 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
Thomson's (Dr. A.) Light from the Cross, crown 8vo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
Traill's (J. C.) New Parishes Acts, 12mo, cloth, 5s. 6d.
Tugwell's (Rev. G.) North Devon Handbook, illustrated, cl., 4s. 6d.
Virgin Widow, 16mo, cloth, 2s.
Woodroffe's (Mrs.) Michael Kemp, 8th ed., fcap. 8vo, cloth, 4s.

ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND.

At the Annual General Meeting of this Society, the members received the gratifying intelligence that the receipts for the past year had been 2664*l.*, and the expenditure 1757*l.*, of which 1225*l.* had been paid in grants of relief. 470*l.* had been added to the funded capital, and 437*l.* to the balance of cash in hand. True to the menace of continued agitation thrown out last year, Messrs. Dilke, Dickens, and Forster sounded their note of war last week through the *Athenæum* and the *Illustrated News*. In the former, the comparison between the receipts and expenses of this Society and the Artists' Literary Fund was once more instituted, in defiance of the simple logical rule, that there can be no parallel without a perfect parity of circumstances; whereas, except in the fact that both are benevolent institutions, these funds have no features in common. To all eyes but those of Mr. Dilke and his friends this has long ago become so palpable, that the iteration of the comparison has become a bore. The writer in the *Athenæum*, having probably some faint consciousness of this fact, thought no doubt to catch a triumph by dragging forward once more the case of Mrs. Haydn, and sneering at the grant of 25*l.* received by that lady after her husband's death, as a paltry pittance, wrung with difficulty from the stony-hearted Committee of the Fund. He forgot to add (did he forget, or did he deliberately suppress?) the fact, which he knew, that Mr. Haydn had previously received 200*l.* Having exhausted his own powers of commentary, he then proceeded to adopt the language of a writer in the *Morning Chronicle* in terms which make him responsible for its statements and its conclusions:—

"The Literary Fund," says the *Chronicle*, "finding its money-means could no further assist Mrs. Haydn than it had already done—as we presume for the purpose of meeting the argument—should have directed its attention to other means of assistance. It represents in its corporate capacity the action, the entity, the active kindly spirit and intention of all the public towards literary men—a gratitude they are more than anxious to be instructed how they can most efficiently show. The Secretary impersonates the kindly feeling of the brotherhood of literature to their brethren in distress, to the widows and children of their brethren dying in distress. What then? Could not that Secretary have put into motion the influence of the Society? have written to its patrons of influence for their aid in getting Mrs. Haydn's boy into the St. Ann's Society School?—and would not that exertion have ensured the success of the application, and preserved literature from the scandal, and Mrs. Haydn from the pain, and the Literary Fund from the disgrace, and the Secretary from the shame of such an appeal in the newspapers?"

This is very magniloquent writing, and its author apparently conceived that his benevolence at least, if not his beneficence, far outran that of all the officials of the Fund. But what are the facts as stated by Mr. Robert Bell at the meeting? Every one of the suggestions of the *Chronicle* had been anticipated. The Committee "had directed its attention to other means of assistance," the Secretary had "put in motion the influence of the Society," and to such good purpose, that he had been enabled to purchase at a cost of 67*l.* the necessary votes for getting one of Mr. Haydn's sons into the St. Ann's Society School. Nor is this all. Another of his sons had been provided with a situation by one of the members of the committee, who had, moreover, become his surety to the extent of 200*l.* Thus, then, Mr. Haydn, whose claims as a literary man were of a very humble order, received from the Fund 200*l.* during his life, and his widow 25*l.*, while the Committee, not satisfied with the merely ministerial application of their funds, have through their

personal influence secured the education of one of his sons, and a livelihood for another. A more conclusive instance of the excellent working of the Institution could not be desired, and the philanthropist of the *Morning Chronicle* will of course become henceforth dumb in censure, if not eloquent in praise. The demolition of this grievance by Mr. Bell's very plain statement was most unpalatable to Mr. Dilke and his friends, and they affected to treat it as irrelevant. And so it would have been but for the use made of the case by their own favourite organ. With that organ they are identified; they use it for abuse of the Committee of the Literary Fund, and the public will not exempt them from their share of the discredit which attaches to the exposure. Never might men exclaim with more truth, "Save us from our friends!" for it is hard to say whether they suffer most by the ill-nature and spleen of the *Athenæum*, or the rapid imbecility of the chronicler of what he calls "Town and Table Talk" for the *Illustrated News*. In the struggle to maintain a noble and well-organized institution from the anarchy which must ensue, were its administration transferred from the body of independent gentlemen who now manage the fund, to the class of labourers for the periodical press who now-a-days arrogate to themselves exclusively the title of literary men, this ingenious gentleman sees only a battle between booksellers and authors. "The committee," he says, in that vein of clumsy impertinence which distinguishes his gossip, "must have found by this time (they have had a year to look about them) another author of note to keep our friend, Mr. Robert Bell, in countenance. Last year he stood alone—a solitary author in a Pater-noster row and Amen-corner of publishers, booksellers, printers, typefounders, bookbinders, and stitchers." No one expects accuracy from such a quarter, and it is therefore not surprising that this insinuation is, in all its particulars, wholly unfounded. The battle is between the great body of the Society and a few individuals. Every author of note in it, Mr. Dickens alone excepted, either holds aloof from Mr. Dilke and his party, or is directly opposed to them; and the presence of Lord Stanhope at the meeting of Wednesday, shows pretty clearly that men of literary eminence would, if necessary, step into the arena to do battle in the cause of the Fund. But Mr. Bell is quite able to hold the lists, single-handed against heavier odds than he has yet had to encounter, and what he has done hitherto so well, it is but just he should be left to complete. Why summon a reinforcement when his opponents are already defeated, and obviously feel that they are so? Their tone is very greatly lowered since the last meeting. The members were no longer menaced with the destroying bolts of Mr. Forster. The thunders of that gentleman were of the mildest description—for him. His hearers were not told this year that the agitation should be continued until he stood upon the prostrate bodies of his foes. Where was the gallant band who supported him last year? "The Thanes fly from me!" must have been the idea painfully present to his mind. How came it else, that his last year's minority of 30 had dwindled this year to 11, while the ranks of his opponents had been materially strengthened? We said last year ('*Literary Gazette*,' March 22nd), "a still more formidable defeat awaits Mr. Dilke and his coadjutors," because it was obvious that, even if they had right on their side, which they have not, their arrogance and utter want of temper and business tact must alienate their friends. In some respects' their appearance on Wednesday was an improvement on their former exhibitions, but educated men cannot fail to resent the pretensions and bad taste of such speeches as those of Mr. Dickens and Mr. Forster, and decline to march to Coventry with them.

We hope we have now heard the last of this unseemly warfare. Mr. Dilke and his party have been fully heard. They have had abundant aid from the press, while little has been said on the other side. Still the verdict of the public is against them. Their charge is, that the funds are waste-

fully applied. The public show that they think otherwise, by placing larger funds in the hands of the Committee. They want literary men to have the potential management of the Fund. The public says No to this also; because, right or wrong, they have no faith in the administrative abilities of mere literary men. It is the general public, not literary men, who have made, and who maintain, the Fund; and they have dictated, and continue emphatically to dictate, how that Fund shall be controlled. In common decency, therefore, Mr. Dilke and his friends should retire from further conflict, and confine their agitation to modifications of practical value, which they may be sure that the members of the Society, ourselves included, will always be ready to support. If they dislike its scope, and the mode of administering its beneficence, their simple course is to withdraw. They have their own Guild of Literature and Art, with its 3500*l.* of capital, and its promises of land from Sir E. B. Lytton. Let them address themselves to infusing life into that moribund corporation, and working out its Act of Parliament. If literary men wish to be independent of non-literary men; if they dislike the idea of a charitable fund; if they alone of all men in the world think it shame, when stricken down by misfortune, to be beholden to a fund created for the benefit of their order in sheer goodwill and loving kindness, because of some fanciful disgust at the idea of being lifted out of distress by charity,—an idea, by the way, which nobody thrusts upon them,—let them form and support a benefit society of their own, and manage it among themselves. Let them, however, be consistent. Let none but the sacred band of literary men and artists belong to the body; let them strike out from their roll of directors the honoured names of the Duke of Devonshire and Lord Granville, which now stand at the head of it in the Act of Parliament, and not expose these noblemen to the hazard of sneers at rank, like those with which Mr. Forster and his friends entertained Lord Stanhope on Wednesday. Let them stand upon their order, and see what it can do to help itself. Surely the same zeal which has for the last three years been wasted in assailing the Literary Fund, might have made the Guild something more than the shadow of a name. At all events, if its promoters, although so generously helped to a start by the public, can make nothing of their scheme, they have no right to treat with scorn the managers of a fund which is maintained and applied so successfully as the Literary Fund.

THEBES.

Thebes, 25th January, 1857.
 ARCHÆOLOGICAL literature is not unfamiliar with elaborate discussions and great diversity of opinion, arising out of attempts to revive the topography of celebrated cities of antiquity. I do not here so much allude to the absolute difficulties of identification, where sites themselves have to be determined, and colossal heaps like the mounds of Nimrud, Khorsabad, or Warka require to be interrogated for the very names of the towns whose every feature they enshroud. But even in cases like Athens, Rome, or Jerusalem, where the question of locality is at rest, contemporary vestiges of early grandeur exist, or well-known spots, hardly less definite aids to ideal reconstruction, are not to be mistaken, there are nevertheless many important points of detail, which, if they do not always baffle every effort of ingenuity, afford an ample field for legitimate controversy. Still it may be fairly said of almost every city prominent in the past of which individual ruins remain, if they are sufficiently marked to form, as it were, an outline or nucleus for the guidance of conjecture—it may be fairly said that a beholder scanning the scene with intelligent reference to whatever descriptive allusions preserve a reflex of the old original, will probably be able to shadow forth to his own mind something like a resuscitation, such perhaps as might utterly fail to stand the test of careful antiquarian disquisition, but which, by reasonable congruity with existing fragments or features, might be adequate, for the moment, to satisfy the cravings of the

formative desire natural to most men, which demands the embodiment of abstractions, and requires that in the effort the evidence of reason and fact shall not be violated.

But there is at least one great city, the earliest if not the most remarkable within the historic pale, whose site too is defined by remains of surpassing grandeur, which, nevertheless, it would require a bold untrammelled exercise of fancy to rebuild in imagination in its pristine glory. And indeed, if any regard for verisimilitude were retained, a mind the most fertile in conjecture might well hesitate on the plain of Thebes. In the first place, the absence of descriptive records or materials renders it impossible to form a full conception of the appearance of the ancient capital. Herodotus strangely omitted to embellish his narrative by some sketch of its magnificence and splendour, even then on the decline; and when Strabo saw it very early in the Christian era, the last stage of its fall was all but accomplished, the remnant of its inhabitants having segregated into different villages. In short, as the father of history himself failed to hand down some outline of its features—in consequence of which he has been accused of never having sailed so high up the river, notwithstanding his express statement to the contrary, reiterated three times as I remember—his silence might be said to frustrate the last hope of a coteremporary description of Thebes; for its day of power, nay, almost its existence, had ceased before what we are accustomed to term ancient literature had fairly commenced. It is true that Diodorus, referring probably to a previous writer, asserts its luxurious magnificence; but, apart from the temples, he mentions little more in the way of specific details, than the fact of private houses having been built of such stately proportions as to consist of four or five storeys. It is also true that paintings on the tombs represent dwellings of various kinds, some having three and even four floors. They are generally associated with ponds and gardens, and they often seem to be intended to depict rural rather than urban residences. But making full use of every hint such materials can supply, how are single edifices to be collocated into the necessary groups? How is the circuit of 140 stadia noted by Diodorus, or the much larger area which Strabo implies, to be filled up with palaces, villas, streets? What, in short, was the general outline? What even were the main aggregate features in the constructive arrangement of a city whose splendour caused it to be entitled the first in rank, not only in Egypt but throughout the world? These are questions which, if they do not defy conjecture, are little likely at present ever to receive a thoroughly satisfactory reply. In riding by a mountain path to a body of my men at work in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings, I have often occasion to pass, and rarely can resist deviating to reach, a point in the rocky range of the western desert which commands an admirably extensive view across and along the plain of the Thebais. Immediately in front, on the eastern bank and close to the river, is the Temple of Luxor, with stately columns struggling in noble contrast with the mud or crude brick houses of the modern village which crowd around and even on them. A mile to the north, the massive gateways of Karnak overtop a grove of palms which partially hide the clustering pillars beyond, and the acres of mounds which bury other undisclosed buildings within the sacred precincts. Between the remains of these two temples, on either side of them, and beyond, to a distance of perhaps twelve miles, where the rugged hills of the eastern desert spring up, the dead level of a green and fertile tract is unbroken save by an occasional village, groups of palm trees, or the rough embankment of a modern road raised above the reach of the inundation. Yet there stood the principal portion of ancient Thebes; and although the ruins of the two temples are glorious relics of its greatness, the want of other traces gives them the appearance merely of individual structures rather than parts of a whole; nor is to be wondered at if the imagination refuses the effort of

striving to conjure up the dead city, when the eye roves hopelessly over the plain, seeking in vain for any adequate pabulum for the reasonable exercise of fancy. This thorough disappearance of the ordinary portions of the old metropolis is partly accounted for by the probable fact that the material most commonly used for dwelling houses was sun-dried bricks, which under circumstances of decay would readily disintegrate. But as there was no lack of luxurious taste, opulence, and structural ability, it is not to be doubted that very many buildings besides the temples were of hewn stone. Still, whatever might have been the proportions in which the work of the mason and the bricklayer had been employed, it is not difficult to see why the labours of both, except in the case of the most massive edifices, should, as they are now, be equally obliterated. In England we have a humble parallel in Roman towns and villas, which have become as though they never were, the disclosure of their buried substructures alone evincing their former existence. And Thebes had even less chance of exemption from the common fate. Already suffering from the removal of the seat of government, and crippled during the Persian invasion, the full measure of the revenge of an exasperated besieger was poured out upon it. To this there followed an all but deserted solitude of two thousand years, during which the gradual increase of alluvium has been in progress, until at length the soil has accumulated at this point of the valley to a height of seven feet above the level which prevailed when Thebes was in its zenith, and rich harvests wave over this old centre of civilization.

Nor is the portion of the city which covered the western bank more prominently marked. Surveying its site from the same elevated position in the mountain which I have mentioned, there is only the green plain, which stretches from the edge of the desert beneath, to the river about two miles off, the whole unbroken, except away to the south, by mounds afterwards to be noticed, and one or two villages. But for a distance of about three miles along the curving line where the cultivated land bounds with the desert, there are at irregular intervals splendid vestiges of the Libyan suburb. Farthest to the north is the small temple of Old Goorneh, nearly opposite the towers of Karnak, which rise on the other side of the river. Next comes the Ramesseum or Memnonium, reduced to its crumbling propylæa and a cluster of columns. Then follows the protruding basement of the temple whose entrance was guarded by the colossal statues of Amunoph, which now sit solitary sentinels surveying their ancient trust. The temple, and the temple-palace of Medeenet Haboo, embedded in the brick mounds of an early Christian town, are next in order towards the south; and beyond them is an immense quadrangular area, defined by high mounds, which Sir Gardner Wilkinson has satisfactorily surmised to have been a lake, on the banks and surface of which such funeral ceremonies have been performed as early writers record and the monuments portray.

In the desert at the back of this array of temples lies the vast necropolis, stretching in length along the whole line, and circumscribed in breadth within varying and rarely narrow limits by the Rocky Mountains, some of which here attain a sufficiently majestic elevation, and assume most striking forms, terminating in conical or pyramidal crowns. Behind the Temple of Old Goorneh, already mentioned as farthest to the north, the tombs begin—the comparatively flat space at the foot of the mountains being perforated with pits, while the faces of most of the hills, from their base to a considerable height, are scarped at nearly every available point, and pierced with chambered sepulchres. This fashion prevails throughout the whole tract. About half-way to the Ramesseum, proceeding southwards, the mountains recede with a circular sweep, forming a valley called the Assaseef, bounded at its innermost extremity by a noble wall of lofty perpendicular cliffs. At the foot of these, amid natural accessories almost sublime,

are the remains of a temple known as Der-el-Baheré, to which an imposing avenue, still clearly defined, leads up among the tombs. At the south side of the Assaseef, the hill named Shekh Abd-el-Goorneh, so remarkable for the unusual number of the sepulchral cells it contains, projects from the range; and beyond there is another valley, which divides into two branches, the one bending round the Shekh Abd-el-Goorneh, the other isolating a similar hill to the south. This latter glen is crowded with the ruined brick superstructures of tombs; and a small temple of Ptolemaic time marks the point where it bends off from the former. Another lonely gorge behind Medeenet Haboo, with several catacombs of royal ladies, is the limit of the necropolis in this direction; and we must return to its other extremity behind Old Goorneh for the ravine which, by long tortuous windings, leads through the mountains to the secluded Valley of the Tombs of the Kings, and to another also containing excavated royal sepulchres.

I do not expect that a hurried sketch like this will exhibit to any one, with desirable clearness, the burial-place of Thebes; and from the nature of the ground being such as to require minute and constantly varying description, the far more elaborate attempts at verbal portraiture which exist probably fall short of accomplishing their purpose at once with fidelity and scenic effect. But a mere statement of extent, enumeration of localities, and allusion to the expensive care which characterize the sepulchral remains, if they fail to present a vivid picture, will at least be sufficient to recal one of the most certain evidences of the size, grandeur, and wealth of a city whose people, being dead, yet speak through the medium of their vast abode.

In the midst of this Golgotha I live, but there is far from a deathlike solitude around. The Fellahs of five villages occupy the lower tombs all along the hills, penning their few cattle, sheep, or goats, within mud enclosures erected in front of their cave dwellings. One by one the tombs, adorned with scæls which have taught so much of ancient manners, have been or are being thus tenanted, with what result may easily be conceived; and the time is fast approaching when, from this cause, the cupidity of peasant dealers who chip off any saleable fragment, and the lamentably heedless acts of some travellers, these valuable and most interesting representations will be known only through such sources as the accurate drawings and descriptions of Sir Gardner Wilkinson, or the beautifully coloured plates of Rosellini. Already many are utterly gone or irremediably defaced. Last year I took occasion to point out (Journ. Archaeological Institute) the ruin which is overtaking remains of all kinds in this country, and I need not again advert to so melancholy a subject. Of the temples here, although they constantly suffer in the paltry way I have alluded to, it may be said at least that for the present they are not threatened with any systematic destructive operations for procuring building materials. Some mischief of an extensive nature might, indeed, easily arise from a custom, sanctioned by permission, of breaking up and carrying off any quantity that may be required of the fallen stones, for burning into lime; for Fellahs once at work would be very apt to select what suited them best without very scrupulous reference to the position of the blocks. A few days ago, during a visit from the Kasheff, the governor of the district, I urged him to see that when this sort of quarrying went on it was kept within proper bounds, and, generally, to do as much as he could to prevent the people from injuring the antiquities in any way whatever. Wishing to impress him with a sense of their value, I showed him the care that had been taken to preserve illustrations of them in some of the books at hand. I was amused to find, what, however, is very common with Mohammedans in the East, unused to pictorial representations, that he utterly failed to apprehend what even the simplest scenes were intended to depict. It was quite the same to him at first which side of the plate was uppermost; and he appeared, by his gratification, to think the discovery quite a triumph of ingenuity, when, after much considera-

tion, he was able to announce that some given figure in a group was a man, although it by no means followed that the artist had contemplated designing a human being at all. While evidently struck with the fact that the ruins had been the subject of so many books and engravings, his only feeling was probably one of surprise that the Franks should have given themselves so much trouble about them; and in urging him to save them from injury wherever he could, which he promised to do, I of course relied on arguments much more personal to himself. As for the ordinary spoliation of the tombs, that has long been contraband trade, which, whether the authorities seriously desire, as they once professed, to put it down or not, is spontaneously approaching an end, having very nearly worked out the mine. This I have occasion to see in the unfortunate aspect of rendering the successful accomplishment of my own plans more difficult and improbable.

One of my chief designs here is to discover, if possible, tombs of the date of the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties that have never been disturbed, and in which the deposits remain *in situ*. It appears to me that facts of considerable interest and even importance might be evolved from a precise comparison of all the contents of, with their arrangement in, sepulchres of various periods. This would be peculiarly desirable, as between tombs of the earliest time, such as are found at Gezeh, and those referable to the later and most splendid epoch of Egyptian history, which are to be met with most numerously here. It is quite probable, as some facts already recorded, and one line of inferential reasoning would imply, that no very marked differences in the deposits might exist, for the paintings on the walls of tombs of both dates are remarkably similar in general character, and the various arts of life are depicted as fully and highly developed in the earliest age, evincing in this respect no progressive change within the range of centuries represented by the monuments. On the other hand, the diverse decorations of mummy cases have been said to indicate some of those alterations, or rather developments, not unlikely, on other grounds, to have occurred in that part of the religious system more particularly relating to the dead; and which, if they really took place within the monumental period, might have induced corresponding modifications in the mode and accompaniments of burial. It may, however, be remarked incidentally, that any deductions drawn from strongly marked divergences in the figures painted on coffins, should not only have for their basis the different dates of the cases which they themselves may specify, but it ought also to be taken into account whether they might not have been procured from different parts of the country, and whether that might not have something to do with discrepancies. But without adverting minutely to questions of this kind, it is quite obvious that an adequate series of observations of the nature indicated would have value in several points of view, as tending to show unity or diversity of practice in the various periods or districts, and so to assist the elucidation of collateral subjects.

To do what I can in aid of an accumulation of such facts is one of the chief objects that I propose to myself, to be pursued this year by excavations at Thebes and Gezeh, and subsequently, if health and opportunity permit, by similar researches at Abydos and elsewhere. I gravely fear, however, as I learnt by experience at Gezeh last season, and this season here, that a satisfactory amount of success in the direction I have named is now extremely problematical, in so far as these two places are concerned. In the days when Mr. Salt, through his agent, D'Athanas, and the French consul-general of that day, carried on operations here on a great scale, there can be no doubt that an extensive series of data might have been noted. Since then, forty years of an increasingly lucrative traffic have stimulated the Fellahs to activity, and they have literally burrowed the whole necropolis from end to end, except at those places where a very considerable amount of labour is necessary to disclose the tombs. But even at such spots, and

others overlooked by the modern diggers, precursors in very early times have done the work of forestalling. For instance, in four well-tombs which I discovered beneath the Christian ruins behind the Memnonium, themselves of very considerable antiquity, the mummy boxes were smashed, and almost all the other contents broken or destroyed. Again, near the entrance of the valley of El Assaseef, certain appearances of promise led me to undertake a trench, and after a time a few mummy cases of the coarsest description, some being nothing more than plain deal boxes, were disclosed. This encouraged perseverance, and many days were spent in removing about fifty of these, and the immense quantity of rubbish in which they were imbedded in tiers, along with some coarse cylindrical vases, although without any careful arrangement. At length a rock-cut area, in and over which they were piled, was uncovered, and in one side of it, near where three cases of a very superior character lay, was the door of the expected tomb. It contained, however, nothing but a quantity of debris to some height upon the floor, having been rifled in long past years probably by the people whose repose I was in turn disturbing. In all likelihood, too, the mummy cases which it contained had been appropriated [at the same time for fresh burials; at all events, some of the coffins outside were made of pieces that formerly had been parts of others; some of large size enclosed small bodies, and one was so old as to bear the name of Amunoph I., second King of the 18th dynasty, while the mummy inside, although well rolled, was unaccompanied by any ornament whatever, had the arms bandaged separately, and brought down in front, after the manner recognised as having prevailed in late time. Such are the disappointments which must be anticipated.

At present I have three gangs of men at work at selected points in the Dra-aboo-neggeh, the Shekh-Abd-el-Gorneh, and the neighbourhood of Der-el-Medeeneh—the two extremes, and the centre of the necropolis; and I have another body of forty in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings, where I am anxious to take the chance of examining every probable spot, before removing that party to the Western Valley, where there is a strong feeling that other royal sepulchres, besides the very few now open there, remain to be discovered. Although my excavations are undertaken with archaeological ends of the character I have implied more particularly in view, it would not the less be satisfactory should anything during their progress be disclosed likely to be of use in any of the other branches of Egyptian research, and I should anxiously wish not to overlook, but to preserve, such materials for the disposal of those more able to turn them to full account.

For the firman which empowers me to excavate, and for other facilities, I am indebted to the ready kindness of Mr. Bruce, Her Majesty's consul-general in Egypt, who gave me this valuable assistance. Apart from the satisfaction of expressing my obligation, I am glad to allude to this topic, because it affords me an opportunity to mention, what I believe will be a pleasure for those at home interested in antiquities to know, that the representative of Britain in this country is fully impressed with a sense of what is due to its wonderful vestiges, and has steadily refused the countenance of his official influence to their mercenary or careless spoliation. I am, &c. A. H. R.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE Anniversary Festival of the Royal Literary Fund will be presided over this year by Earl Granville, an esteemed patron of men of letters, and member of the Committee of the Guild of Literature and Art.

It is with regret we have to record the reported death of another victim in the cause of African exploration. Intelligence has been this week received at the Foreign Office, from our British consul at Tripoli, of the assassination of Dr. Vogel, whose arrival at Kuka, on the borders of Lake

Tsad, in the best health and spirits, we announced in our impression of June 3rd, 1854. A similar report reached this country some time since of Dr. Barth, who has returned to Europe alive and well; but in the present instance the rumour comes on better authority. The letter received at Tripoli is from Corporal Maguire, one of the Sappers sent out with Dr. Vogel, and is written from Kuka. Dr. Vogel had departed from that place comparatively alone, on a most perilous journey eastward, with the view of reaching the Nile. He is said to have advanced through Birgirmi into Wadday, and to have been there murdered. The Sheikh of Bornu has promised to forward particulars to our consul at Tripoli, as soon as they have been ascertained.

We are much concerned to learn that the renowned Arctic voyager and scientific inquirer, Dr. Scoresby, is now lying seriously ill at Torquay.

The Fothergillian gold medal has been awarded by the Medical Society of London to Mr. Edwin Canton, F.R.C.S., for his essay 'On the Diseases of the Spine, their Pathology and Treatment.'

The Rev. R. Church, late Fellow of Oriel, and the Rev. J. E. Bode, late of Christchurch (author of the translations of the Ballads from Herodotus), and the Rev. Mr. Arnold, of University College, are said to be candidates for the Professorship of Poetry at Oxford, in room of the Rev. T. Legh Claughton, of Trinity, whose period of office has expired. The election is on the 5th of May, and at the same meeting of Convocation a Professor of Political Economy will be chosen in room of Professor Rickards, whose term of office has also expired.

A bust of Dr. Buckland is to be placed in the new museum at Oxford, in connexion with the geological collection bequeathed by him to the University. The subscription is limited to one guinea, and the list includes many distinguished names in science, besides Dr. Buckland's personal friends and his academical colleagues. Earls Derby, Ducie, and Enniskillen head the list, with the members for the University, Mr. Gladstone and Sir William Heathcote, Sir Thomas Acland, the Dean of Llandaff, the Provost of Oriel and of Queen's, and most of the heads of houses and official functionaries of the University. The President of the Linnean Society and Professor Owen are among the representatives of science who join in this memorial to the lamented geologist.

The venerable Chaplain-General of the Forces being no longer equal to the active duties of the inspectorship of Military Schools, Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Lefroy, R.A., has been appointed his successor in that office, Mr. Gleig retaining, we believe, the post of superintendent of the educational department of the army.

It is intended to establish a college in Liverpool on the plan of Queen's College, Birmingham, and, like it, in connexion with the University of London. The necessary funds have been provided, and the institution will soon be in full activity. While Liverpool thus gains a college, she is about to lose the most distinguished of her citizens in the person of the Rev. James Martineau, who has accepted the post of Professor of Moral Philosophy in the New College, London.

The act of generous liberality to the town of Liverpool, on the part of Mr. Wm. Brown, M.P., is to receive its crowning recognition on the 15th of April, in the inauguration of the new free library, for which he presented the munificent gift of 30,000*l.* Mr. Allom is the architect of the new building, which is one of the chief architectural ornaments of Liverpool. The design was selected from a large number sent in competition, a premium of 150*l.* having been offered by the Corporation, who are trustees of Mr. Brown's fund.

The manufacturers of Birmingham and other seats of industry in the Midland Counties, are wisely taking advantage of the expected concourse from different parts of the kingdom and foreign countries, to the Exhibition of Treasures of Art at Manchester. A circular has been issued, from the Mayor of Birmingham, to the leading manufacturers in the counties of Warwick, Worcester,

Stafford, and Salop, inviting them to meet for considering and determining upon a proposal for holding an Exhibition of Manufactures this year in Hingley Hall. The Exhibition of 1849, the only one hitherto held at Birmingham, was followed by the most important results, although at that time attempts of the kind were comparatively new in this country, and the arrangements were, in many respects, incomplete and unsatisfactory. It was held, too, in a temporary building, without the advantages now available in the magnificent hall which has since been constructed. The Industrial Exhibition of 1849 had a marked influence in paving the way for the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations in 1851. The report of last year's Exposition in Paris bore testimony to the great improvements in British manufacturing art in the interval between 1851 and 1856, although this country was not represented in a proportion likely to bring out the improvements in their full degree. There is no doubt that a home exhibition at the present time would present an array of objects that would sustain and extend the reputation of British Industrial Art. That Birmingham is the best place for such a display all will admit, whether as the central town of the great manufacturing districts, or for the peculiar facilities of railway communication. The object is so well defined, and so distinct from the Fine Art Exhibition at Manchester, that the two cannot possibly interfere, but each rather forms the complement of the other. It will be seen that England has not neglected the claims of the fine arts while rising to the chief place among nations as a manufacturing country, neither has a growing taste for art at all led to decay of the industry which is the great source of the wealth of the nation. At Manchester, those who may have judged of the treasures of art by the meagreness of the public collections, compared with those of other countries, will be astonished to find that England can match in her private galleries the proudest of foreign national collections. At Birmingham it will be seen that England still holds the first place in the manufacture of objects of solid industry, and has gained rapid ground in the more ornamental productions in which other nations had been allowed to get precedence. The two exhibitions together will illustrate Sir Robert Peel's memorable remark about this island, though unable to compete in soil or climate with more favoured lands, yet to be regarded as "the wonder and the workshop of the world." The Mayor of Birmingham deserves high credit for the public spirit he has displayed in this matter, his services being enhanced by the liberal offer to become personally responsible for the expenses of the undertaking.

With an industry and perseverance worthy of a better cause, Mr. Fitzpatrick, of Dublin, continues to assert his doubts as to the propriety of Sir Walter Scott obtaining exclusive merit as the author of the *Waverley* novels. To the facts previously adduced in support of his allegations Mr. Fitzpatrick has recently added other documentary evidence, to show that Sir Walter was indebted to his brother Thomas, the Paymaster of the 70th Regiment, and his clever wife, for the substance of the earlier tales in the *Waverley* series. There is really much more to be said on this matter than on another foolish question which has been recently mooted, as to the authorship of Shakespeare's plays. That Sir Walter Scott obtained many useful and curious materials for his novels from his brother and brother's wife in Canada is attested by conclusive evidence; but even if Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mr. French, his coadjutor in the same inquiry, could make out a tenfold stronger case, it comes to no more than what was expressed in homely simile by one of Scott's surviving friends, Mr. Maidment, one of the Clerks of Session at Edinburgh, that "furnishing materials for a pudding is one thing, making it another." This is the common-sense of the question, and while it is interesting to know whence Scott obtained any of the rough materials of his tales, his genius and art are no more affected by such discoveries than is the fame of Shakespeare diminished when antiquaries point out the sources whence he seems to have taken the plots and cha-

acters of his immortal dramas. Mr. Fitzpatrick's pamphlet belongs merely to the curiosities of the history of literature, and can scarcely be regarded as a piece of real literary criticism. At all events it is as amusing to read as the report of an interesting trial.

Mr. Disraeli, in seconding Lord Palmerston's motion for a vote of thanks to Mr. Shaw Lefevre, on retiring from the Speaker's chair, departed from the personal question to volunteer a complimentary eulogy on the members of the present and recent parliaments. It is certainly true that the eighteen years during which the Speaker has occupied the chair, have been a memorable period in the parliamentary annals of this country, and have witnessed the passing of some of the greatest measures that have ever been proposed in the councils of the nation. But Mr. Disraeli touched on more questionable ground when he went on to say, addressing the Speaker, that "some of the greatest men who ever flourished within these walls have been under your guidance." The truth, it must be confessed with regret, is that the standard of the members of the House of Commons, whether as regards parliamentary eloquence, or the higher qualities of statesmanship, has been lower during the time referred to than in almost any previous period of the national history. Not to go back to the times of Walpole or Chatham, of which the traditional fame yet lingers in the nation's memory, the parliaments of this generation have but feebly sustained the proud glories of the days of Pitt and Fox, Burke and Sheridan, or even the later triumphs of the time of Plunkett and Grattan, Brougham and Canning. It has been said that the wider diffusion of political knowledge, and the larger number of public men who take part in the debates, have led to erroneous estimates as to the superiority of earlier over more recent parliamentary eloquence; and that really the whole standard of the House of Commons has been so raised, that individual eminence can no longer be reasonably expected as in former times. But this is not the case in regard to science, when the same argument might be used. Scientific knowledge is widely diffused, and the cultivators of science have multiplied exceedingly, yet there never was a time (always excepting the few men like Newton, who appear but once in the world's history) when so many names of the highest order of genius and power have illustrated the national annals as during the last twenty years. Mr. Disraeli's remark is therefore historically untenable, however much we may give credit to the statesmen and orators of the present time for many useful and some brilliant qualities in the discharge of their parliamentary duties. There is the more cause for satisfaction that so much practical good has been effected by parliaments marked by mediocrity of talent and eloquence compared with those of past generations. Now and then there are displays that recal the spirit and tradition of other days, and the speech of Lord Palmerston on this very occasion was one which in classic elegance and felicitous aptness of language will be memorable in parliamentary records. The echoing cheers which followed every sentence of his short but terse and expressive speech, attested at once the art of the orator and the interest of the occasion; and the effect produced in the House will be spread throughout the country wherever the report of the speech is read, when he said how the Speaker had "combined promptitude of decision, justness of judgment, and firmness of purpose with the most conciliatory manners," and how "that dignity, that natural dignity which belongs to you, and which is most striking when it is accompanied by simplicity of mind, and by the absence of all artificial affectation, how that natural dignity which adorns yourself has been communicated through your direction to the general proceedings of the Commons House of Parliament." As a literary and rhetorical display, the whole speech was admirable for its aptness to the occasion, and will confirm that character for true oratory which Lord Palmerston will bear in the national history. It was a speech of Lord Palmerston also, on the foreign policy of England, which elicited from Sir

Robert Peel the memorable eulogy, among the last words which he spoke in the House before his fatal accident, when he said that, whatever differences of political opinion there might be, they were all proud of the man who delivered that speech.

The neighbourhood of Eye in Suffolk abounds in remains of antiquity. There are few places in England more inviting to the archaeologist, and none perhaps that would better repay systematic research. In the last century a hoard of Roman gold coins, consisting of several hundred pieces, comprising the money of Valentinian, Gratian, Theodosius, Arcadius, and Honorius, was discovered, and not many years since, a leaden box was found at Campsey-Ash, near Eye, containing a great number of coins of Edward the Confessor. Most of these pieces appeared as if fresh from the die, and had apparently never been in circulation. At Eye have been discovered at intervals those black mortuary urns once supposed to be Roman, but doubtless of a Teutonic people before their conversion to Christianity. Mr. Kemble, in a communication to the Society of Antiquaries, has shown their identity with the urns found at Stale on the Elbe, which greatly enhances the interest of these remains. Several of these urns are in the collection of the British Museum. Celts and ancient British coins have occasionally been turned up in this district, and within the last few days evidence of the Roman occupation of Eye has been brought to light. In the north-west corner of the fosse which surrounds the Castle earthwork is a field called "the Camp," or "Camping field," belonging to a Mr. Penning, a builder at Eye, who has caused excavations to be made, the result of which has been the discovery of the foundations of Roman buildings, supposed to be those of a villa of the once masters of this island. We trust to be able to give a further account of these excavations.

The Rev. Henry Alford, of Quebec Chapel, has been appointed Dean of Canterbury. Besides his theological and professional writings, Mr. Alford has a place in literature as the author of a work on the Poets of ancient Greece.

A circular has been this week issued by the solicitors to the assignees of Mr. Edwin Baldwin, announcing that the copyrights of the *Morning Herald*, *'Standard'*, and *'St. James's Chronicle'* newspapers are for sale, and that they are ready to receive tenders for their purchase, either together or separately.

The French Government has just created a new chair in the Museum of Natural History, at Paris, under the name of 'Vegetable Physics,' and has appointed to it M. G. Ville, who, though young, is represented to have distinguished himself "in the traces left by Priestley, Ingenhousz, and Duhamel." The new professor will have, it appears, specially to occupy himself with such matters relative to vegetable production as do not fall strictly within the domain of botany, the cultivation of the soil, and agricultural chemistry.

Some of the most distinguished scientific men of Paris, headed by Baron Thenard and M. Dumas, the chemists, and by other members of the Institute, have, we learn, just established a society for the relief of such scientific men, or their families, of France, as may fall into distress. The annual subscription to the society is to be of any amount the subscriber pleases above 10*fr.*; but the benefits of the society are to be extended freely to non-subscribers. It was certainly much to be deplored that, whilst in France authors, musicians, artists, actors, and even inventors, had their several charitable associations, men of science had none; and yet nobody needed it more, for none are so disregardful of worldly interests, and have so few means of enriching themselves, or even of gaining a bare support by their labours. In presiding over the meeting at which the society was established, Baron Thenard mentioned some cases of distress into which the families of *savants* fall at their death:—one was of a distinguished botanist, recently deceased, who left to a wife and several children nothing more than—a small library and some bundles of dried plants! We cordially wish

the new society success, and we record with pleasure that Baron Thenard generously gave it 800*l.*, in English money, to begin with.

M. Ernest Piliou has addressed a letter to the *Journal de Constantinople* on the recent discoveries in Assyria by the French Consul, M. Victor Place, who succeeded M. Botta in that capacity at Mosul. He states that in digging for the Bulls, now removed, M. Place had caused trenches to be opened through an enormous mass of rubbish, formed by the ruins of a series of terraces: the earth thus fallen in between the walls of the different apartments preserving a perfect impression of the sculptures and bassi-relievi, against which it had pressed and hardened. It contained also a great profusion of ornaments and engraved stones and coins of ancient Nineveh. These last must be invaluable, and especially if in the Cursive character, we would observe. On a cylinder of this collection, and beautifully carved, is a figure, robed, and with curled hair and beard, who extends one hand towards a kind of altar, beyond which appears a crescent moon rising above a star. But more important still would be the asserted discovery of the actual Tower of Babel, standing on a quadrangular base of 194 metres, say 600 feet in length on each side. Of the original eight floors or stories six have disappeared; but the ruin is still visible from 20 leagues' distance—60 miles. The bricks of the building, which were covered with writing before they were burnt, were of a pure white clay originally, but burned to a pale-yellow colour nearly. The slime or pitch that cemented these is found in abundance close to the spot. In the bright sunlight this glorious ruin, the earliest monument of human science and achievement, displays a magnificent mass of colours, blended into hues that challenge and defy the genius and palette of the artist. The characters traced on the bricks are executed with an artistic delicacy of finish perfectly unapproached by any of the specimens known hitherto; and though regular, and even severe, the upright strokes of the letters are adorned with flourishes like heads of nails. Photographic copies were taken. A similar process was employed on the ruins of the palace of Queen Semiramis, which is stated to be built upon an artificial mountain overlooking the mighty solitudes of Lake Van, in Armenia. We would remark, that the Armenian historians speak only of an immense causeway or embankment of the river, and describe the castle as erected on the natural heights. Schulz also refers it to the rock rising abruptly in the middle of the plain.

It may be remembered that two or three years ago we had occasion to notice certain publications made in Paris, on authority of men of some scientific repute, setting forth that there exists in Africa a race of negroes called Niam-Niams, who have tails about three inches long. M. de Castelnau, a celebrated French traveller, has just addressed a communication on the subject to the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique* of Paris. He says that when he was at Suez, he received evidence which tended to confirm the existence of a tailed race. He therefore went to the Red Sea, in order to make as full an investigation into the matter as circumstances might admit. The captain of the barque which conveyed him from Suez to Djeddah stated that he had often heard speak of negroes with tails far away in the interior of Africa. Ameen Bey, the representative of the government of Egypt at Djeddah, said that he had often heard speak of such negroes, but had never seen one, and did not believe that they existed: he supposed that the talk about them might have arisen from some negro tradition of the evil spirit. An Arab at Gofodah assured M. de Castelnau that his father thirty years ago saw a negro with a tail three inches long, who came from the south of the Darfour; the man was a cannibal. At Hodeidah M. de Castelnau collected eight slave-dealers from Abyssinia, and questioned them. Three of these men had not heard of the tailed race; five others had, and these five said that they had been told that they were cannibals, and lived beyond the Nubia. In the same town, an Arab

assured M. de Castelnau that he had heard speak of the said race, but he gave accounts of them which were too marvellous to be credited. On the whole, M. de Castelnau says that his conclusion is, that the belief in the existence of a tailed race is general amongst the negroes of the interior of Africa; but whether it has any basis in fact, or comes from a mere story invented to frighten children, he leaves to time to tell. He need hardly, we think, give time the trouble.

Herr Uppström, professor in the University of Upsala, has just announced to the scientific world the interesting fact that the ten missing leaves of the *Codex Argenteus*, of Ufilas, have been discovered, and are now placed with the original manuscript. This codex now contains 187 pages (the loss of the missing sheets being first found out in 1834), and is in the same condition in which it was when presented to the library of the University by Count Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie. The manuscript originally consisted of 330 pages, but 143 had already disappeared before the College became possessed of this unique treasure. In a previous number we mentioned that the existing sheets have been reproduced by the photographic process, at the instigation of Professor Leo, of Berlin. Since then, Professor Massmann, also of Berlin, has published an edition of the Codex, with excellent Greek and Latin translations, under the title of *Ufilas, the Holy Scriptures of the New and Old Testament, in the Gothic Language, with an accompanying Greek and Latin text, besides Notes, a Glossary, and an Etymological and Historical Introduction.*

The Academy of Sciences of Paris, in its last sitting, adopted the report of a commission of its body, consisting of Messrs. Elie de Beaumont, M. Cordier, M. Dufrenoy, Admiral du Petit Thouars, and Baron C. Dupin, on the project of M. Ferdinand Lesseps, for cutting a ship canal through the Isthmus of Suez. After examining the project at great length, in every aspect, historical, political, practical, commercial, and maritime, the report says: "We will sum up in a word our judgment on the undertaking: the conception and the means of executing the maritime canal of Suez form an enterprise useful to the whole of human kind. By these simple words we believe we express, in its widest extent, the favourable judgment of all the Academy."

M. de la Roquette, author of an able memoir on Sir John Franklin, drawn up for the Geographical Society of Paris, has generously contributed one thousand francs towards the equipment of the new expedition which Lady Franklin is about to send for a final search, to ascertain the fate of the lamented navigator. M. de la Roquette's memoir, which has been published in a separate form, as well as in the Bulletin of the Geographical Society, has been widely circulated on the Continent, and has created a wider interest in the object of the expedition, which is to proceed as soon as possible by the way of Behring's Straits. Canadian journals state that preparations are making for an expedition to start from that country, under the direction of Dr. Rae, early this spring.

The veteran Alexander Von Humboldt has had a very severe attack of illness, the consequences of which it was at first feared would be fatal. Having returned home at a late hour from a court ball, and having retired to rest, he was obliged to get up in the night, and fell partially paralysed on one side. Entire rest, and the care of one of the first physicians of Berlin, have now, however, almost completely restored him to his usual health. He has been twice visited by the King. The last accounts of the venerable philosopher announced that he could sit up during three or four hours in the day, and had resumed his literary occupations.

M. Milne Edwards, of Paris, has completed the first volume of his great work, *Leçons sur la Physiologie et l'Anatomie Comparée de l'Homme et des Animaux.* It is a full exposition of the state of these sciences at the present time, and of the progress they have made since Cuvier wrote on them.

The death of M. Gerard, a distinguished French

linguist, and compiler of an esteemed botanical dictionary, entitled *'La Flore Française,'* has just taken place at Paris.

Mr. Peabody, whose munificence has often been conspicuous in the advancement of objects connected with learning and science as well as philanthropy, has presented three hundred thousand dollars, to be afterwards increased to five hundred thousand, to the city of Baltimore, for the establishment of an institution which is to include a free library, a musical academy, and a picture gallery.

The Spanish government are about to establish a national school of Paleography, on the model of that at Chartres.

Some Roman catacombs and an ancient tomb in red sandstone, besides a skeleton in tolerable preservation, have just been discovered a few feet below the surface of the street in the very centre of the town of Wiesbaden.

FINE ARTS.

TURNER'S WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS.

The feature of this collection which strikes every visitor most forcibly, is the great unevenness it displays in point of merit of execution. Some of these drawings seem scarcely worth the frames that contain them; whilst there are others which arrest and entrance the eye by their extraordinary powers and charms. Taking the three of larger size, which are hung on the wall of the room by themselves, a great disparity may be noticed. The *Battle of Fort Burd*, *Val d'Aosta*, is evidently of early date.

It bears all the traditions of the formal school of drawing that was extant when Turner took his first lessons—the painfully hard outlines and the over-elaborated finish of the student who is not yet a master of his craft. But with these traces of a mode of treatment which Turner soon after learned to abandon, the foretaste of greatness may be detected in this work. Rarely has such a mass of fighting figures, so distinct and yet so full of excited movement, been grouped in such a noble assemblage of natural features, amid such a completed world of rocks, mountains, and mists. The vigour of expression struggling with miniature powers, the determination to be forcible both by distinctness and by accumulation of details, mark the aspiring genius of the painter. In *Edinburgh, from the Calton Hill*, there is as much study as in the foregoing, with more repose, arising from a more complete mastery of the modes of expression. This is a grateful and refreshing subject, with an appreciation of aerial effect, and a dawning consciousness of what might be made of such materials. The third drawing is *The Funeral of Sir Thomas Lawrence*, which bears intrinsic evidence of having been executed in or since 1830. We have thus a period of some thirty-five years at least over which the production of the works of this collection may be supposed to have been spread. It must be acknowledged that this later production is a very inferior specimen. There is no ingenuity in the choice of position; the figures are ill drawn; and the whole scene a sketch, intended to assist a reminiscence of the author, rather than to commemorate an event in the history of art. The bearers are represented at the moment of entering St. Paul's Cathedral, snow lying on the ground. The scene is not only in every way mournful and wretched, but it is obscure and confused.

On an adjoining screen are some of the earlier drawings in colours; and amongst these are included some of the weakest and most trivial of Turner's performances. What is to be said of the *Campagna of the Rome*, with the name inscribed in gigantic letters on the stone! or even of the *Tivoli*? The feebleness of outline and the stunted execution lead us to class these drawings with scraps from the sketch-book of some no very accomplished amateur. Yet along with these inferior instances there are gleams of a brighter state of things; as in the *Perugia*, the *Aosta*, and the beautiful *Bridge of St. Maurice*, where the grey tones are admirably harmonized, and the stork in the foreground is introduced with true artistic

skill. Similar inequality may be noticed, but not to the same extent, in the sepia drawings; amongst them the *Peat Bog* and *Inverary Castle* may be selected as instances of condensed power and accurate observation. Shortly afterwards a great variety of subject presents itself. *Jason* will be remembered by all for its novel and startling appeal to the imagination; and we see how the effect is repeated in the oil painting in the adjoining room. The source of the *Hindoo Sketches* can only be guessed at. *Procris* is merely a classical title for a landscape; but *Thum*, *Bonneville*, and *St. Gothard* may be fairly considered as the products of actual observation.

The screen devoted entirely (with an exception) to English views, is one of the most attractive in execution as well as in subject. What can render the effect of cool green shade and prattling waters more faithfully than the *Ivy-Bridge*, or the rich glow of meridian sunlight in the cloudy atmosphere of the south coast better than the *Dartmouth*? The two *Arundels* in the same manner are admirable and powerful renderings of a favourite scene. Two views of *Harfleur* and two of *Rouen Cathedral* are representative of French scenery; but amongst these, the most conspicuous for commanding situation, and bold, powerful execution, are the views of *Tangerville Castle* and *Quillebeuf*. Proceeding further in the order of arrangement, we find some instances of fine landscape effects; among the most striking and marvellous that the range of art can produce, wherein lies the magic of such a scene as that of the *Bridge, with Goats*, or of the sketch called *Bridge in the middle distance*, it is almost impossible to define, so evanescent are the traits of that witching charm which envelopes them. A feeling of airiness, expanse, sunny calm, harmony of forms and tints, will furnish some elements of this success, but may yet fail to touch the fancy and excite enthusiasm for natural beauty.

A final screen is devoted to another assemblage of English scenes. *Norham Castle* is a splendid example of distance. *Okehampton* is one of the fullest and most complete in details of rock and wood-scenery. *The Mouth of the Humber*, *Brougham Castle*, *Rochester*, and *Totnes*, are all favourable examples of experience and power.

If the oil-paintings which Turner has bequeathed are to be considered as the summit and result of his long-practised powers, these fragments, often completely beautiful in themselves, are the foot-prints in the path of his fame, marking with unerring accuracy the steady progress of his ascent. The analytical student of the art-faculty will find here abundant material for his speculations; the pure lover of pictures for their own sake, fastidious as he may be, will examine the majority of these drawings (particularly those in sepia) with the keenest relish; and in the eyes of every countryman of Turner they stand as a mute appeal by the great painter to posterity. We need not attempt to anticipate the verdict; remembering, at the same time, that the whole of the materials for forming the final decision are not yet produced, and that we must look to a new National Gallery for a worthy exhibition of the artist in his full dimensions.

The Munich art-critics mention with the highest praise a picture which is now being exhibited in that town. It is a landscape by Karl Ross, a native of Schleswig-Holstein. The subject is a beech wood, with one of those deep, dark, melancholy forest-lakes, over which floats a heron with outstretched wings, whilst another stands lonely on the shore in the foreground. The lake seems to recede far into the depths of the forest; the wood is dense and close, but the perspective and the distances are marvellously given. On the left side some roe deer graze quietly in a glade, where the rich green grass grows luxuriantly. In the foreground some magnificent beech trees, isolated from the forest, extend their lofty arms, and raise their proud heads towards heaven, as beech trees only can do in this their favourite land. The characteristics of this fine landscape are perfect sim-

licity of conception, thorough understanding of the anatomy of trees, a masterly treatment of his subject, and a vein of poetry which pervades the whole treatment of the picture.

A committee has been formed in Hainichen, the birthplace of Gellert, to collect funds towards the erection of a monument in his honour. A sum of sixteen hundred thalers, including five hundred presented by the Saxon Art-Union, has already been brought together, and it is confidently expected that the sympathy in the object will be sufficiently strong, both with the princes and literary men of Germany, to assure a large collection. If means allow, it has been arranged that the monument should consist of a statue, cast in bronze or iron, to be erected on a suitable stone or marble pedestal. This will be placed in the middle of the town, and a space enclosed with a handsome railing, within which flowers and shrubs will be planted. Professor Rietschel, of Dresden, has prepared a small model of the statue in plaster of Paris, which he allows to be sold for three thalers, (about nine shillings) for the benefit of the Gellert funds.

Two sketches for the monument to be erected in honour of Louis, ex-King of Bavaria, have just been forwarded to Munich, and are now on exhibition in the Pavilion of the Schrennshalle. They are by Brugger and Wiedemann, and though both modelled after the plan of the great equestrian monument of the late sculptor Schwanthaler, show considerable individuality and difference of treatment. The king is represented in his royal robes, with the crown on his head and the sceptre in his hand, supported on either side by a page bearing tablets, on which the king's motto, "Gerecht und beharrlich," ("Just and constant,") is inscribed. The sculptors have followed their own individual ideas in the treatment of the three figures and the horse, and, as a natural consequence, two parties have been formed amongst those who have seen the models, each warmly upholding their favourite. The king, it is said, gives his preference to Herr Wiedemann's sketch.

A group of sculpture has within the last few days been sent from the country of Hanover to a furniture warehouse in Hamburg, belonging to Messieurs Mendelssohn and Kopf, to be sold by them. It turns out to be a masterpiece of art, and a genuine specimen of old Italian sculpture of the best period. The group is in marble, and represents the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham. The expression of the faces, the grouping of the figures, and the execution of the sculpture, are all of undoubted excellence. The story attached to it is, that it was discovered under the ruins of a villa near Venice, and transported originally to Germany by art-dealers. It has already been inspected by many artists and competent judges, and an offer for it has been made by the Danish government for the Royal Museum of Copenhagen, but has yet not been accepted by the present possessors.

Herr Johann Meixner, a Viennese sculptor, has nearly finished a colossal bust of the late celebrated Oriental scholar, Baron von Hammer-Purgstall; it is extremely like and well executed, and is ordered by Count Wickenburg for Gleichenberg. The same artist has opened an exhibition of his works in his studio at Vienna, which has attracted the attention of all the artists and connoisseurs, and has been honoured by a visit from the Court. The works which are most highly spoken of are a colossal figure of our Saviour with St. Joseph and two angels, ordered for the cathedral of Gran; a Madonna, destined for the chapel erected on the spot where the Hungarian insignia of royalty were discovered; and busts of the present Pope and the Cardinals Seiztowsky and Viale Prela.

The Pope has honoured the German artist Overbeck with a visit at his studio, to inspect a large picture which he had ordered for his apartments in the Quirinal Palace. It is painted in distemper, and represents our Saviour withdrawing himself from the hands of the Jews, and stepping from a rock above Nazareth on to a cloud supported by angels. A symbolical border, on a gold ground, typifies the progress from the Pagan to the Christian worship.

Amongst the foreign exhibitions of the works of living artists which are to take place in the course of the present year are these:—Those of the United Association of Fine Arts of Germany, at Halberstadt, on the 8th April; Halle, the 24th May; Gotha, 13th July; Cassel, 8th September; and those of the Rhenish Association of Friends of the Arts, at Friburg in Brisgau, on the 15th April; Strasburg, the 11th May; Carlsruhe, 9th June; Mannheim, 5th July; Mentz, 31st July; Darmstadt, 29th August; and Stuttgart, 24th September.

A gallery of very interesting pictures, belonging to an Italian of Milan, a Signor Villardi, will in the course of a few weeks be sold by auction in Paris. This collection contains valuable paintings by Hämeling, Luigi, Gian Bellini, Galeazzo Campi, Paolo Veronese, Guido Reni, &c., besides several cartoons by Leonardo da Vinci, and drawings by Giulio Romano, Correggio, and others. It was from this collection that the celebrated book of drawings by Leonardo da Vinci was purchased last year for the Louvre in Paris.

A statue, in bronze, of Gay-Lussac, the great chemist, is, by permission of the French government, about to be erected, at the expense of his family, near the Serbonne at Paris. Why the expense should be thrown on his family, when men of infinitely lesser note have obtained statues at the expense of the public, and not of the government, we are not told.

The pedestal which is to support the colossal equestrian statue to be erected to Louis, ex-King of Bavaria, is to be ornamented with four figures, typical of Religion, Art, Poetry, and Industry, from designs sketched by Herr von Klenze, a Bavarian privy councillor.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

UNDER the title of *Fraud and its Victims*, the French drama, *Les Pauvres de Paris*, versions of which have been already produced at several of the minor theatres, has been brought out at the Surrey with an efficiency that secures a marked success. This is due to the interest of the original piece and the talents of the actors, and only in a slight degree to the literary skill of the adapter, Mr. Stirling Coyne, who has, however, shown considerable skill in translating the scenes and characters from Parisian to London life. The plot of the play, which is divided into a prologue and four acts, is in its outline simple, and may be briefly told. A swindling banker, *Mr. Haggstone* (Mr. Basil Potter), at Liverpool, having secured a large booty, is about to make off, concealing his purpose even from his confidential clerk, *Tom Trumper* (Mr. Shepherd). *Trumper* had discovered what was in the wind, and on the eve of the "governor's" departure, inconveniently insisted on remaining in the house, and at length succeeds in making good terms for himself as the condition of winking at the escape. While the two rogues are thus engaged, an old sea captain, *Captain Seaborne* (Mr. Creswick), comes to deposit 10,000*l.*, the earnings of his life, which the banker coolly receives, while the clerk has enough conscience or good feeling left to look upon this concluding villainy with disgust and indignation. Scarcely has the old sailor left the bank, when he returns to reclaim his money, a friend having hinted doubts as to the safety of his place of deposit. A scene of altercation and violence takes place, the excitement of which throws the captain into an apoplectic fit, and he falls down dead. The banker departs that night, the clerk having meanwhile taken from the captain's pocket the receipt for the money. This part of the story is represented in the prologue. The first act of the play, after an interval of twelve years, introduces the banker returned from a residence abroad, and living in London, under the new name of *Mr. Warrington*. *Tom Trumper*, now in reduced circumstances, is a street vendor of knives with six blades, and other cutlery. The widow of the poor sea captain, with her son and daughter, (Mrs. Moreton Brooks, Mr. Creswick, and Miss E. Clayton) are struggling with poverty, and are

tenants of Mr. Warrington, who has threatened to turn them into the street for arrears of rent. One day, as Tom Trumper is selling his wares at the outlet of the Burlington Arcade, he recognises his old master, who is accompanied by his daughter (Miss E. Webster.) As may be supposed, Mr. Warrington has to bleed freely, and frequently to bribe Trumper to silence; but at last he gets rid of him by sending for the police while he is in his house, and the intruder is sent to the House of Correction as obtaining money by false threats. Trumper repeats his annoyances on his release from prison, and the time of retribution is also hastened by his being acquainted, through the aid of a working painter (Mr. Widdicombe), and a flower girl (Miss G. Ellis), with the abode of the Seaborne family. From this point the plot thickens; love episodes with Mr. Warrington's daughter, and Maria Seaborne, and the painter's sweetheart, the flower girl, pleasantly relieving the melo-dramatic intensity of the action, until finally Trumper succeeds in restoring to the widow her 10,000*l.*, and exposes the villainies of the disguised swindler. The acting of Mr. Creswick, first as the old captain and afterwards as his son, and Mr. Shepherd as the banker's clerk, and afterwards as the broken-down street hawker, is well sustained and expressive. In the part of the banker, Mr. Potter shows real ability, and Mr. Widdicombe shows much humour as the painter, and as the improvised waiter at Mr. Seaborne's house. Some of the scenes are very effective, especially that towards the conclusion, where a section of a house in one garret reveals the widow and her daughter poisoning themselves with charcoal fumes, while in the next room a scene of wild violence is transacting between Trumper and Mr. Warrington, who has come to try by fraud or force to get possession of the receipt for the 10,000*l.* In the scene at the entrance of the Waterloo station, there is too great an accumulation of improbabilities, and the accidental rencontre of so many of the personages of the tale is absurdly beyond the limit even of stage coincidences. The stale artifice of finding articles dropped inadvertently is too frequently used, such incidents happening five or six times in the course of the play. The translator, for the sake of the effect, has retained the Parisian mode of suicide by charcoal fumes, but there are several incidents and sentiments which ought to have been altered in adapting the piece for an English audience. At the close of the play, when sympathy is gained for Tom Trumper, Mr. Coyne might have pointed a worthier moral than that which is vociferously uttered by the reclaimed vagabond, that he "never forgets a kindness and never forgives an injury." The latter part of the sentiment is as repulsive to right feeling as needless on the occasion; had it been "never cloaks hypocritical villainy," it would have been nearer the mark as a commendable moral.

An interesting melodrama, called *Les Orphelines de Charité*, has this week obtained such success at the Ambigu Theatre at Paris, as to render its translation for our stage certain. In Holland, it appears, there exists, or it did exist, a tradition to the effect, that the government used formerly to take under its special protection female orphans, and watch over them with paternal care, until they were honourably married; denouncing death against the man who should be betrothed to one of them and afterwards refuse her marriage. It is this tradition on which the new melodrama is based. A French officer is betrothed to one of the government orphans, but refuses her marriage in order that he may marry another young woman, with whom he has fallen passionately in love. The orphan insists on her rights, and scenes of woe ensue. But at last all is made right by the discovery that the supposed orphan is really the daughter of wealthy parents, and in return for a family she gives up her lover. M. Dennerly is the author of the piece.

On the 24th of February, Frau Clara Stöckel Heinefetter, known a few years ago in England as

one of the most celebrated singers of her day, died in the new institution for insane patients in Vienna.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—March 5th.—The Lord Wrottesley, President, in the chair. The names of forty-three candidates for election into the Society were read. The day of election is fixed for the 11th of June. The paper read was 'On what the Colonial Magnetic Observations have accomplished,' by General Sabine, R.A., V.P.R.S. With the view of showing the desirableness of continuing the magnetic observations established in our colonies, the author gives an instructive and interesting account of what they have already accomplished. The magnetic investigations designed to be carried into execution by the observatories embraced a very wide scope. All that was known regarding magnetic phenomena, when the subject was discussed by a committee of the Royal Society, was, that there occurred occasionally, and as it was supposed irregularly, disturbances in the horizontal direction of the needle, which were known to prevail with an accord which it was impossible to ascribe to accident *simultaneously* over considerable spaces of the earth's surface, and were believed to be in some unknown manner connected either as cause or effect with the appearances of the aurora borealis. The chief feature by which the presence of a disturbance of this class could be recognised at any instant of observation, or by which its existence might be subsequently inferred, independently of concert or comparison with other observatories appeared to be the deflection of the needle, from its usual or normal position, to an amount much exceeding what might reasonably be attributed to irregularities in the ordinary periodical fluctuations. The observations which had been made on the disturbances anterior to the institution of the colonial observatories had been chiefly confined to the declination. By recommendation of the Royal Society and the British Association the field of research was enlarged, being made to comprehend the disturbance phenomena of the three elements; and the importance of their examination was urged, not alone as a means of eliminating their influence on the periodic and progressive changes, but also on the independent ground that "the theory of the transitory changes might prove itself one of the most interesting and important points to which the attention of magnetic inquirers can be turned, as they are no doubt intimately connected with the general causes of terrestrial magnetism, and will probably lead us to a much more perfect knowledge of those causes than we now possess." Acting on this suggestion, the observations recorded at the various observatories have already furnished the necessary data for an investigation into the laws or conditions regulating or determining the occurrence of the magnetic disturbances. By laborious operations—the magnitude of which may be estimated from the circumstance that the observations made at the magnetic station of Toronto alone considerably exceed 100,000, each of which had to be passed through several distinct processes—extremely interesting and important laws respecting terrestrial magnetism have been deduced. Besides these results, occasional magnetic phenomena are proved, by their mean or average effects, to be subject to periodical laws of a very systematic character, which, as a first step towards an acquaintance with their physical causes, places them in immediate connexion with the sun as their primary exciting cause. They have, 1st, a *diurnal* variation which follows the order of the solar hours, and manifests therefore its relation to the sun's position as affected by the earth's rotation on its axis; 2nd, an annual variation, connecting itself with the sun's position in regard to the ecliptic; and 3rd, a third variation, which seems to refer still more distinctly to the *direct* action of the sun, since, both in period and in epochs of maximum and minimum, it coincides with the remarkable solar period of nearly eleven years, the existence of which period has been recently made known to us by the phenomena of the solar spots. These, however, as far as yet

know, are wholly unconnected with any thermic or physical variation of any description (except magnetic) at the surface of the earth, and equally so with any comical phenomena with which we are acquainted. The discovery of a connexion of this remarkable description, giving apparently to magnetism a much higher position in the scale of distinct natural forces than was previously assigned to it, may justly be claimed on the part of the colonial observatories as the result of the system of observation enjoined and carefully maintained. The author then proceeds to show the great use and value of various magnetic stations at different parts of the globe. For example, there are certain variations produced by the mean effects of the disturbances which attain their maximum at Toronto during the night hours. The corresponding variations attain their maximum at Hobartton also during these hours, but with a small systematic difference as to the precise hour, and with this distinguishing peculiarity, that the deflection at Hobartton is of the opposite pole of the needle (or of the same pole in the opposite direction) to the Toronto disturbance; whilst at a third station, St. Helena, which is a tropical one, the hours of principal disturbance are those not of the night but of the day. General Sabine gives an interesting account of the suggestion first made by M. Kreil, of Prague, of the existence of a lunar diurnal variation. The suggestion led the author to investigate the magnetic observations at his disposal with relation to this phenomenon. The results deduced from the observations made at the three stations of Hobartton, Toronto, and St. Helena present the same general characters. The variation of each of the elements is in double progression in the twenty-four hours, having epochs of maximum and minimum symmetrically disposed. In character, therefore, the lunar variation differs from what might be expected to take place if the moon were possessed of inherent magnetism, i. e. if she were a magnet, as it is usually termed *per se*; and accords with the phenomena which might be expected to follow if she were magnetic only by induction from the earth. On the other hand, it is believed that the amount of the variation, as observed at each of these stations, very far exceeds what can be imagined to proceed from the earth's inductive action reflected from the moon. In conclusion, the author, to whom physical science is principally indebted for the extremely interesting and valuable results deduced from the magnetic observations already made, observes with great justice that we may derive the greatest encouragement, from the results which have been already obtained, to persevere in a line of research which is no longer one of doubtful experiment, and to give it that further extension which the interests of science require. Antecedents justify this. For the magnetic observatories have accomplished even more than was contemplated. A series of papers by General Sabine, published in the Transactions of the Royal Society, bear testimony to his great desire to give a completeness to the experiment of colonial observatories corresponding to the original conception with reference to their establishment. The cost of an Ordnance observatory is only 392*l.* per annum (exclusive of publication). The work has been accomplished by officers and soldiers of the scientific corps of the army, and with great credit to all engaged in it. One great and unquestionable advantage which future colonial observatories will enjoy, will be found in the assistance they will derive from the observatory at Kew, where their instruments can be verified and prepared, and new instruments devised. The colonial establishments were instituted at the instance of the Royal Society and the British Association, with a more general concurrence and approval on the part of the cultivators of science in all parts of the globe than it is believed was ever before manifested in regard to any purely scientific undertaking, and with such a cordial and effective co-operation of the public authorities as is well deserving of being held in remembrance. The continuance of the magnetic observatories is most desirable. They have yielded much, and will doubtless yield more. In the elo-

quent language of Sir John Herschel, "There are secrets of nature we would fain see revealed; resources hidden in her fertile bosom for the well-being of man upon earth, we would fain see opened up for the use of the generation to which we belong. But if we would be enlightened by the one, or benefited by the other, we must lay on power, both moral and physical, without grudging and without stint."

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Feb. 25th.—T. J. Pettigrew, V.P., in the chair. The Earl of Albemarle was enrolled an Associate, and it was announced that the congress for 1887 would be held, under his Lordship's presidency, in Norfolk. Mr. Clarke communicated an account of several late discoveries of coins in Suffolk—at Brandeston, Easton, and Framlingham; they were chiefly tradesmen's tokens. Mr. Corner exhibited eight metal spoons of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, all found in London. Some were of latten, others of pewter. Mr. Corner also exhibited a curious old water-jug which had once possessed a bright-red glaze; it was dug up in the New Kent-road. Mr. Gunston exhibited seven curious rings, a silver one of the early part of the fifteenth century, three of brass—one of which was a Zodiac ring, having Aries engraved on it, the others signet thumb-rings—one of which was found in Suffolk, the other in Ireland. Mr. G. also exhibited two iron spearheads found in the Thames, the head of a musket-rest, and a remarkable knife from the same river, near to Southwark Bridge. Mr. Wills exhibited a Cousen-lane token, marked Condit-lane, Dowegate. Mr. Forman laid before the Association a remarkably fine Chinese coverlet, in needle-work; and Mr. Cumming read some interesting notes on coverlets, counterpanes, and quilts, illustrating his remarks by references to the early English poets. Mr. Forman also exhibited a very fine and large specimen of Gobelin tapestry of the time of Charles II., which had formerly been in the possession of an illustrious duke of a Venetian family. The drawing was beautiful and the colours very brilliant—the subject, Don Quixote moving off from the enchanted castle in a wooden cage in a cart. Mr. Black read a paper 'On the Successive Statutes of the Order of the Garter and their various Texts and Versions.' He stated that the statutes of the Founder, Edward III., existed in three distinct Latin texts; were succeeded by those of Henry V., in French, which, with some variations and additions under Edward IV. or Henry VII., continued to the reign of Henry VIII., who, in 1522, established a new body of statutes. These last are recorded in Latin, in the Black Book of the Order, which was thought by Ashmole to contain their original text; but Antist doubted whether they were not published in a different language: indeed, they have always, from the reign of Henry VIII. to the present time, been given forth to the Knights of the Order in English. Mr. Black pointed out, from the error of date in the English copies, which gives the eighth year instead of the fourteenth of Henry's reign as equivalent to 1522, that the English text is not the original; and proved, by internal evidence of phraseology and of senseless mistakes, that both the English and the Latin text of those statutes must have had a French original. This French text is extant in the Public Record Office in a volume inscribed with the King's own hand. He then described the various draughts and other evidences existing in different repositories, by which the compilation of Henry's English statutes is distinctly traceable to the French text of his predecessors, and concluded by expressing his opinion that the first statutes of the Order were likewise published in French; the court language of Edward III.'s time, and not in Latin; and recommended further searches for that original French text, which thirty years' researches had not enabled him yet to discover, but which, if found, might easily be distinguished from those of Henry V. and his successors, by the absence of their interpolations and additions, as well as by agreement with the Latin copies.

ANTIQUARIES.—March 5th.—J. Hunter, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Mr. John Stuart Glennie was elected Fellow. The Rev. Thomas Hugo exhibited two objects in lead, of unknown use, but apparently the coverings of the heads of saints, found in the bed of the Thames. Mr. Henry Shaw reported, in a letter to the treasurer, the termination of excavations on the site of Chertsey Abbey, the result of which was the discovery of the bones of men and animals, fragments of tiles, and a fragment of a sepulchral slab, but no relic of importance. Mr. B. Nightingale exhibited a string of beads, of the late Roman or Saxon period, discovered near Donaghadee, in the townland of Loughrey, county of Down, by a labouring man when moulding potatoes in a field. Mr. F. C. Lukis exhibited and presented a plaster cast of a stone celt, having a human face carved on it, found near Clermont, in Auvergne, France. The original is an unique object. The Secretary communicated a transcript of a document among the Baynes papers, entitled 'A Way to induce all original Creditors mutually to agree to prevent Competitors in purchasing the King's Lands, &c.' The original draft is in the handwriting of Capt. Adam Baynes. Sir Henry Ellis communicated 'A Relation of the Lord Fauconberg's Embassy to the States of Italy, in the year 1669, addressed to King Charles II.,' transcribed from the original MSS., signed by Lord Fauconberg himself, preserved in a volume of the Sloane Collection in the British Museum, No. 2752.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—March 2nd.—W. W. Saunders, Esq. F.R.S., President, in the chair. Mr. Wallace brought for exhibition two specimens of *Laphygma exigua*, bred from eggs produced by a female taken in the Isle of Wight in July last. Mr. Stevens exhibited some drawings of the larva and pupa of Natal *Lepidoptera*, made by Mr. R. W. Plant, and the perfect insects bred from them, the most interesting of which was a new species of *Arenes*. Mr. Wire exhibited a very remarkable suffused variety of *Arctia caja*, and read a description of the specimen by Mr. Edward Newman. Mr. Westwood exhibited a large larva of a Sphinx, which species does great injury to the maize crops in some parts of South America; also a *Nonagria*, the larva of which is very injurious to the sugar cane in Madeira, and a minute beetle of the genus *Orthoperus*, taken in Madeira by Mr. Wollaston. Mr. Westwood read a letter from a correspondent at Benares, describing the intense pain he endured from the sting of a large species of scorpion, which was, however, speedily allayed by a native doctor, who exposed the finger on which the sting had been inflicted to the fumes produced by dropping pieces of wax on a pan of ignited charcoal. Mr. Douglas read a translation of some remarks published in the December number of the 'Entomologische Zeitung,' by Dr. Hagen, 'On the Cicada hemetodes.' Mr. Baly read a paper 'On Dryfiora,' &c., in which twenty new species were described, and exhibited drawings of the insects, beautifully executed by Mr. Robinson.

NUMISMATIC.—Feb. 19th.—Dr. S. W. Vaux, President, in the chair. Dr. Loewe read a paper 'On a Gold Mamlūk Coin, struck by command of the Sultan Melik-Dhaher-Rokn-Eddin Bibars,' in which he gave an interesting account of the history of Sultan Bibars, and of the Mamlūk dynasty, as illustrated by their coinage, which is still extant. Dr. Lowe also read a very curious letter which he had translated, addressed by Bibars to Bohemond, son of Robert Guiscard, announcing the capture of the city of Antioch by the Sultan's forces from those of the Christians.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—March 4th.—John Hawshaw, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. Messrs. F. Ford, W. Ladd, A. Watney, and J. Wright, Jun., were elected Members. The paper read was 'On Appliances for facilitating Submarine Engineering

and Exploration,' by Major H. B. Sears. Part I. Submarine Engineering.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(G. Gilbert Scott, Esq., A.R.A. on Architecture.)
Chemical, 8 p.m.—(On Circumstances tending to Disprove the Presence of Acids and Bases in Chemical Analysis. By Mr. J. Spiller.)
Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Huxley on the Principles of Natural History.)
Pathological, 8 p.m.
Linnæan, 8 p.m.—(Dr. Cobbold on a species of *Mechanura* in Britain; and Dr. T. Thomson on the Structure of the Teeth of *Barringtonia* and *Carya*.)
Statistical, 8 p.m.—(On the Pay of the Ministers of the Crown. By Dr. Farr, F.R.S.)
Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Discussion upon High-Speed Steam Navigation and the Relative Efficiency of the Screw Propeller and Paddle Wheels.)
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Dr. Letheby on the Economy of Food.)
London Institution, 7 p.m.
R. S. Literature, 4 p.m.
Thursday.—Royal, 8 p.m.
Royal Society Club, 8 p.m.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Tyndall on Sound.)
Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
Museum of Geology, 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen. Pliocene and Pleistocene species of Fossil Mammalia.)
Numismatic, 7 p.m.
Philosophical, 8 p.m.
Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(S.A. Hart, Esq., R.A., on Painting.)
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(J. Watkins Brett, Esq., on the Submarine Telegraph.)
Museum of Geology, 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen. Pliocene and Pleistocene species of Fossil Mammalia.)
Saturday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Phillips. Limits of Variation in the State of the Globe—Internal Heat.)
Astratic, 2 p.m.
Medical, 8 p.m.
Botanic, 4 p.m.

VARIETIES.

Fossil Remains.—Some workmen, in digging earth for bricks in a field at Ilford, in Essex, came upon some valuable fossil remains—viz., bones of a mammoth, of an enormous rhinoceros, and the head of an extinct *bos*, allied to the bison of America; bones of the horse, deer, &c., were also found. They were in the brick-earth of the Pliocene beds, a little above the sand, the underlying stratum, and about 14 feet below the general level, which is that of the valley of the Thames. The mammoth's tusk is extremely massive and unusually curved, being 4 feet 8 inches across the bow made by the bend, and 9 feet 2 inches in length at present, though both ends are considerably decayed. The animal was probably the *Elephas primigenius*, or else *E. meridionalis*, both American; and the ivory of the former is of great Siberian export. The lower jaw of the *bos* was destroyed, by time first and the pickaxe on discovery, but the skull is otherwise perfect, and the splendid horns are entire. Mr. Curtis, the proprietor of the field, has liberally exhibited the collection, some part of which had been destroyed or dispersed in ignorance by the finders; and on the 21st ult., Sir C. Lyell, M.M. Waterhouse Luckett, Morris, Prestwich, Jones, &c., examined the remains *in situ*. The tusk is for the British Museum.—*Essex Standard*.

Art Union of Dresden.—The Committee of the Art Union of Dresden has selected for the engraving to be delivered to the Members for the year 1857, a set of engravings, on wood, by Burkner, of the beautiful frescoes executed by Professor Bandemann, in the ball-room and concert-hall in the palace of the King of Saxony. They will be issued in twelve plates, and be accompanied by some pages of letter-press.

Shakespeare's House.—A meeting of the Birth-place Committee was held last week, and the 'Birmingham Gazette' says, that "it was unanimously resolved to proceed no further in the work of conservation until the opinion of some eminent architect has been taken upon the subject." We are glad to find our advice has not been thrown away.—*Builder*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—C. O.; G. P.; M. M.; P. T. L. received.

Second Edition. Price 12s.

TRAVELS IN THE INTERIOR OF BRAZIL,
principally through the Northern Provinces and the Gold and Diamond Districts, during the Years 1836-41. By GEORGE GARDNER, M.D., F.R.S. With Plate and Map.
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THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT of the Directors of the MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, together with the Cash and Balance Sheet for the year 1856, showing the state of the Society's affairs on the 31st of December last, as presented to the General Meeting on the 10th of February, 1857, will be delivered on a written or personal application to the Actuary, or to any of the Society's Agents in Great Britain.
CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.
Mutual Life Assurance Office,
35, King Street, Cheapside, London, E. C.

LAW LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE, FLEET STREET, LONDON, 2nd March, 1857.—Notice is hereby given, that the Books for the Transfer of Shares in this Society will be closed on THURSDAY, the 19th instant, and will be re-opened on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of April next.
The Dividends for the year 1856 will be payable on and after MONDAY, the 6th day of April next.
By order of the Directors,
WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, Actuary.

[ESTABLISHED 1841.]

MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE OFFICE, 25, FLEET MALL, LONDON.
Empowered by Special Act of Parliament. At the FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on 27th November, 1856, it was shown that on the 30th June last:—
The Number of Policies in force was £2,752,197 7s. 2d.
The Amount Insured was £1,118,537 16s. 2d.
Two Bounties have been declared (in 1848 and 1853), adding nearly 20 per cent. per annum on the average to sums assured, and by which a Policy of £1000, issued in 1842, on a healthy life, is now increased to £1260.
Since the last division of Profits in 1853, the accumulated funds have increased by more than £105,000, offering considerable advantages to present assureds.
Profits divided every five years—next division in 1858.
The Society, since its establishment, has paid claims on 651 Policies, amounting to £354,000.
Assurances are effected at home or abroad on healthy lives at moderate rates as the most recent data will allow.
Indian Assurances at very moderate rates, and great facilities given to assureds.
Invalid lives assured on scientifically constructed tables.
Policies issued free of Stamp duty, and every charge but the Premium.
Agents wanted for vacant places.
Prospectuses, Forms of Policies, and every other information may be obtained of the Secretary, at the Chief Office, or on application to any of the Society's Agents in the Country.
C. DOUGLAS SINGER, Secretary.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.—THIRD DIVISION OF PROFITS.

The unusual success which has attended the cautious yet energetic operations of this Company has enabled the Directors to add Reversionary Bonuses to Policies on the participating class, averaging nearly 2 per cent. per annum on the sum insured, or from 30 to 100 per cent. on the Premiums paid.
Parties insuring with this Company do not incur the risk of Co-partnership, as is the case in Mutual Offices.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

ANNUAL INCOME UPWARDS OF £128,000.

The Funds or Property of the Company as at 31st December, 1855, amounted to £566,124 2s. 6d., invested in Government and other approved Securities.
Prospectuses and every information will be afforded on application to

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ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that this Company has RETURNED to its OFFICES, which have been Rebuilt, No. 29, LOMBARD STREET, at the corner of Clement's Lane.
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FIRE BRANCH.

The Fire Premium in 1856 amounted to about £130,000, placing the Company among the very largest offices in the Kingdom, and indeed, it is believed that there are only three or four offices which equal it in Fire Revenue. Insurances are received upon nearly all descriptions of Property in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and most Foreign Countries; the rates of premium are exceedingly moderate, and governed in each case by a careful consideration of the risk proposed.

LIFE BRANCH.

The Life Revenue during the past year amounted to about £40,000; the new premiums alone exceeding £10,000. A bonus was declared in 1856 of £2 per cent. per annum on the sum assured, averaging about 80 per cent. of the premiums paid, being one of the largest ever declared. All the Insurances effected during the present year will participate in the next bonus in 1859.

The paid-up and Invested Capital, including Life Funds, amounts to nearly Half a Million Sterling.

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SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LONDON.

Policies effected with this Society now, will participate in Four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the net Profits of the Society, according to the conditions contained in the Society's Prospectus.

The Premiums required by this Society for insuring young lives are lower than in many other old established Offices, and Insurers are fully protected from all risk by an ample guarantee fund in addition to the accumulated funds derived from the investments of Premiums.

Policy Stamps paid by the Office.
Prospectuses may be obtained at the Office in Threadneedle Street, London, or of any of the Agents of the Society.

DR. HASSALL,

Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of "THE LANCET," Author of "ADULTERATIONS DETECTED," "FOOD AND ITS ADULTERATIONS," &c. &c.

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ESTABLISHED 1808.
AND EMPowered BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF THE 5TH GEO. III. CAP. 78.

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This Office having been established 48 years, more than sufficient time has elapsed to test the soundness of the principles on which it has been conducted. During that period, its prosperity and the magnitude of its operations have been constantly increasing. In the

LIFE DEPARTMENT

The Accumulated Premiums are over £1,600,000. And the Annual Income exceeds £184,000.

BONUSES have been declared on Policies to an amount greater than the sum originally assured.

PREMIUMS have been extinguished, where the parties assured have applied the Bonus in reduction of the Annual Premium.

The sum of £268,691—the whole of which belonged to the Policy holders.

The next valuation will be made up to Christmas, 1856. Policies on the Participating Scale, in London or through an Agent in any other part of the Kingdom, will, if the parties do then alive, participate in the surplus in proportion to the time they may have been in force.

The sum of £23,195 has been paid during the existence of the Office for claims under Life Policies, of which amount a very considerable part was for Bonuses.

The following TABLE shows the total additions made to Life Policies for £1000, effected in London or through an Agent in Great Britain, which had been in force for the Thirty-eight Years ending at Christmas, 1854:—

		Date of Policy.		Annual Premium.	Gross Additions to the Sum Assured.	Equivalent to the following Per Centage on the Premiums paid to the Company.
		Age at commencement.	ment.			
1810	25	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.		
do.	25	24 0 10	749	51 0 0		
do.	30	28 18 2	801	72 4 4		
do.	35	31 18 4	896	78 16 4		
do.	40	33 19 2	1051	81 15 2		
do.	45	38 19 2	1284	86 14 8		
do.	50	45 6 8	1721	99 19 1		
do.	55	53 5 4	2124	110 1 7		

Persons assuring in Great Britain have the option of PARTICIPATING RATES OF PREMIUM, or of NON-PARTICIPATING RATES.

The Directors beg to announce that the rates of Premium have been recently revised and re-adjusted in accordance with a long experience, and that

The NEW SCALE will be found very advantageous to persons desiring to commence assuring early in life.

The NON-PARTICIPATING SCALE is particularly adapted to parties wishing to assure a fixed sum only, at a fixed rate of Premium, and on low terms.

Premiums may be paid Annually, Half-yearly, or by a limited number of Annual Payments. The last named mode of Assurance originated with this Office in 1816.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

RENEWALS falling due on Lady Day should be renewed within fifteen days thereafter.

The Company undertakes the assurance of Property in the Manufacturing, Agricultural, and other districts, on favourable terms.

Risks of extraordinary hazard on special agreement, upon survey.

An ALLOWANCE for the loss of RENT OF BUILDINGS rendered untenable by Fire is one of the advantages offered by the Company.

Tables of rates, forms of proposal, and any information needful to effect Life or Fire Assurances, may be obtained on application to the Office, No. 92, Cheapside, London, or to any of the Company's Agents.

HENRY DESBOROUGH, Secretary.
London, 14th February, 1857.

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USED IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY,
And pronounced by Her Majesty's Laundress to be
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